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BIBLIOTHEQUE PORTATIVE

DES

ECRIVAINS FRANÇOIS.
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THE
ADVENTURES
OF
KING RICHARD
COEUR-DE-LION.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
THE DEATH
OF
LORD FALKLAND.

A POEM.

BY J. WHITE, ESQ.
AUTHOR OF EARL STRONGBOW, AND JOHN OF GAUNT.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME III.

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THE
ADVENTURES
OF
KING RICHARD

CORDELL



BY J. W. F. ...
... OF ...

IN THREE VOLUMES.

LONDON:

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...
...

THE
ADVENTURES
OF
KING RICHARD
CŒUR-DE-LION.

CHAP. XXX.

THE intrepid *Cœur-de-Lion* and his trusty companion pursued their road to *Hamburgh*. Not far from the ramparts of that city, they espied two persons, whose garments spoke them to be of some foreign kingdom. They were sitting at the door of a house, and debating on some point which seemed to agitate them powerfully. One of them at

length exclaimed, as the King of England drew near, "Let us make this knight our arbiter. For my part, I bind myself to abide by his decision, and doubt not that he will own that I have just cause for my pertinacity." "I agree," returned the other, "and have no less expectation of his judgment in my favour." This said, the two strangers approached the King of England, and besought him to take cognizance of their dispute, the subject of which they presented to be as follows:—"You behold in us, Sir Knight, two travellers, who have journeyed far and wide: the question to be resolved is, Which of us two hath witnessed the more extraordinary scenes. To determine this, Sir Knight, it is necessary that you should hear our respective narrations. This done, determine freely; for we intend to abide by your award. The prize shall be

be this jewel, which we deposit in your hands."

"Right gladly, courteous strangers," replied the King of England, "do I receive this application. In the recitals of the traveller have I ever taken delight. Begin then, without further delay." So saying, he alighted, and, attended by Fitzherbert, entered the mansion where those strangers had been disputing. The company being seated, the stranger who had already spoken, addressed the King of England in the following expressions:—"I was born, Sir Knight, at Sinopi, a city which lies upon the southern coast of the Black Sea. When I had arrived at the age of twenty, my father, who traded in furs, sent me, along with some merchants of our city, on a voyage to the mouth of the Don, to purchase skins from the Tartars who

dwelt near the borders of that river, and come down to Azac to dispose of their commodities.

“ We embarked on board a saick, and had a prosperous passage to the northern shore ; but, not meeting with any merchandise that would answer for our trade, it was proposed by one of my fellow-voyagers, that we should hire a small vessel, and go up the Don ; for that, in all likelihood, we should have better success a little higher up in the country. The scheme proved agreeable to all of us ; and we accordingly procured a boat, in which we proceeded up the river for some leagues, occasionally trafficking with the natives.

“ One day, when we had landed in order to take some repose, I strayed from my companions into a neighbouring

ing forest, where, fatigued with rambling, I lay down by the side of a rivulet. I had not been long there, when suddenly a handkerchief was thrown over my face, and bound upon my eyes with great violence. I was then lifted from the ground by several persons who maintained a profound silence, and laid athwart a horse before one of them: this done, they hurried me away with prodigious speed. I endeavoured to raise my voice, in hopes that either some travellers, or tribe of wandering Tartars, would hear my outcries, and rescue me from these barbarians: but, in order to prevent this, they gagged me.

“ At length, they descended into a subterraneous road (for such, from the hollow sound, I concluded it to be), along which they journeyed for a considerable time, without ever once utter-

ing a syllable. At last they halted, loosened the bandage from my eyes, and set my lips at liberty.

“ Here, gallant warrior, a new and unheard-of scene was presented to my view. A city in the bowels of the earth, where various occupations were exercised, and where a species of worship, unlike to any now existing above ground, was solemnised in numerous and magnificent temples ! I was immediately conducted to a spacious hall, in which four and twenty venerable men, whose beards were white as snow, were seated round a table. A bench was placed for me at a little distance from them. They desired me to sit, which I did : then one of the old men addressed me in these words : ‘ You are, doubtless, not a little astonished, young stranger, at finding yourself thus suddenly transported into
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the midst of a subterraneous community. In us you behold the descendants of the ancient Guebres, or Worshippers of Fire, who fled from Persia, their aboriginal kingdom, in order to escape the inhuman persecutions of the various multitudes who, at different periods, have overrun that empire. For a long time our unhappy forefathers concealed themselves and their religious rites in the mountains, and other unfrequented places; but even there the arm of persecution reached them. Some twenty ages ago, they abandoned Persia, and betook themselves to the deserts of Tartary overhead, where, hidden from the pursuit of enemies, they, with incredible labour, and an enthusiasm inspired by the pure and celestial religion they professed, effected a secure retreat for themselves and for their altars, deep in the bosom of the earth itself. This, in such

a nu-

a numerous succession of ages, hath increased to the ample state in which at present you behold it. Finding, nevertheless, that our numbers were declining, partly from the effects of our subterraneous situation, and partly from accidents which happen to those whom we dispatch from time to time to the world above us, in search of such commodities as we have need of here below, we are necessitated to recruit our commonwealth by occasional supplies: for the worshippers of fire must preserve their race, to watch over that sacred flame which hath existed from the infancy of the world, and will not be extinguished but with the annihilation of all things. This, stranger, is the cause of your being hurried to this abode, where, if you have the virtue to become a Guebre, you shall forthwith be enrolled as a citizen of our community; if not, expect to die.—

Policy,

Policy, and the preservation of our state, compel us to be thus severe: for none who have been witnesses to this retreat shall escape to upper earth, to discover it to our enemies.

‘ On the contrary, if you cheerfully consent to become a Guebre, happiness will indubitably attend you. There is something so pure, so enlightening, so enrapturing, so divine, in the religion we profess, that the heart of a Guebre is a stranger to grief, experiences no irksome, no malignant sensations; but enjoys an uninterrupted, undescrivable pleasure, and a serenity which is never overcast: thus he passes through life with delight, and sinks at last into the arms of death without reluctance and without fear. Therefore, O young man, believe not that you are unfortunate in being conveyed to these abodes, but consider

consider it as a particular indulgence from the Almighty.

“Thus spake the old man. His words, Sir Knight, made an impression upon my soul. The happiness which he described as peculiar to the life of a Guebre, was a powerful incitement to me to embrace that sect; while the terror of immediate death gave additional weight to it. I thought it better to be a Guebre, and live, than to perish in the flower of my days, from an obstinate and unavailing adherence to the religion of Mohammed.

“Conformably to these ideas, I acquainted the venerable council with my hearty resolution to become one of their community. Upon this, one of the old men rose hastily from his seat, and embraced me with tenderness, adding, that

I had

I had nothing now to do, in order to become a perfect Guebre, than to go through certain ceremonies which were by way of preparation, and indispensably necessary to my reception amongst them. This said, I was delivered into the hands of two hoary-headed physicians, who led me to a building set apart for the operations that I am now about to describe. The first preparatory to my being admitted a worshipper of fire, was to be purged by a certain drug, for two entire days, in order, as they informed me, to carry off the gross and impure particles arising from my having belonged to a people less innocent, and to a religion less immaculate than that of the Guebres; for that physical and moral purity had a mysterious connexion. This, Sir Knight, was in the highest degree irksome to me; but that which followed was infinitely worse: for, at the end of
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the two days, I was put into a bath of brine, and compelled to drink plentifully of it : this was repeated six times in the day, for three whole days successively ; and was, the physicians said, to give my flesh that due tone which was requisite for a Guebre.

“ The third and last ceremony was, to fast for three days, shut up alone in a cavern that was quite dark, and infested with odious reptiles. This was done, they said, in order that my approaching happy state might produce a forcible effect, and win me to it more completely, by the first impression, which is generally the most powerful. Thus rendered a fit subject for the felicity of the Guebres, I was led in solemn state to the temple ; the venerable rulers, the inferior magistrates, with several persons of distinction of both sexes, attending upon

upon this occasion. I was received at the great door by a body of the priests, in their sacred vestments, and thence conducted to the altar, where burned the eternal fire, the luminous and hallowed emblem of Him who made the universe. Here they anointed me with an oil, the sweet odour of which excelled that of any spice or drug I have ever known on upper earth. They then ordered me to kneel before the sacred flame, and swear to remain a true and faithful Guebre. This done, they clothed me in a white garment, and led me out of the temple; while the streets and squares resounded with the joyful shouts of my new fellow-citizens.

C H A P. XXXI.

“**T**HE ceremony of my consecration concluded, two aged priests conducted me to a new-built house, in a pleasant quarter of the town. ‘This, said they, is assigned to you for your habitation; enter, and be happy.’ Having thus spoken, they departed. I found within this house whatsoever was useful or desirable: furniture, apparel, domestics, were at my command: as for money, I had no occasion for it, as I shall explain in proper time. Thus, Sir Knight, did I find myself, in the space of a very few days, transformed as it were into a new being, an inhabitant of a subterranean world, amidst a sect of people, singular for their religion, life, and manners, and
for

for a long succession of ages divided from the rest of mankind.

“ And here it will not be improper to describe this city, which the Worshippers of Fire have scooped out beneath the deserts of Tartary. The most ancient quarter, the work of the first emigrants from Persia, consists of a spacious square, and four wide streets that issue from it: these are arched overhead; vast props being also left at due intervals, to support the incumbent earth; while narrow funnels, for air-holes, are carried quite through to the surface of the ground above. But in the progress of so many centuries, various other excavations were effected; two circuses, another square, a range of tenements in the form of a crescent, with many streets and courts, both convenient and agreeable.

“As the light of day never visits these abodes, the whole city is perpetually illuminated, in a manner the most delightful. Lamps of beauteous workmanship are regularly disposed in every place, and fed with a sort of odoriferous oil, which at once yields a perfume most grateful to the smell, and leaves little room to regret the absence of the solar ray. Between every two lamps hangs a cluster of rich jewels, that reflect the neighbouring flame, and multiply its splendor.

“Each dwelling is a separate excavation, arched like the public ways, and neatly plastered. The expedient of the Guebres for carrying off the smoke, is worthy, Sir Knight, of being recorded. The apprehension that it would betray their retreat to those on earth, if permitted to escape through many different apertures,

apertures, gave birth to a contrivance as extraordinary as it was successful. The great square already mentioned, which lies in the centre of the city, is exactly under a hill of considerable magnitude, which rears its awful head upon the plains of Tartary. In the middle of this square is constructed a prodigious funnel, carried upwards through the centre of the hill, with the summit of which its orifice corresponds. From every house throughout the city extends an iron flue, one end of which is inserted into a flue of larger size, that is fixed to the vault of the street, running along it horizontally, and communicating at length with the great funnel already noticed, which vomits all the smoke of the city in one vast volume through the superincumbent hill, out of which it bursts, as it were from some volcano. Accordingly the Tartars have, from time

immemorial, bestowed on it the appellation of *the burning hill*; and many sages and philosophers from distant countries have travelled thither to behold it, none ever suspecting the true cause of such a phænomenon.

“ As to fuel, they are in no want of that ; for there is an inexhaustible mine of coal near one side of the city ; on the other they have a mine of salt. Innumerable springs afford them water. Here then, Sir Knight, are three articles provided for. Four great subterranean roads extend from the town to a distance, which, if we did not recollect that the Guebres have been working under ground for twenty ages, would be deemed almost incredible. One of them runs in a direction due north, as far as the middle of Siberia; another south, towards Mount Taurus and the Caspian ; a third extends eastward,

eastward, towards the sea of Japan ; parallel to it is a canal, the mouth of which is shut by a wooden gate, so contrived as to bear on the outside the appearance of a natural rock : within this, is a massive gate of iron, so strong, that it seems as if no human power could force it. By this canal the Guebres receive various articles of merchandise for their home consumption, which are brought to them from Japan and China, and other parts of the East ; for they annually send out detachments of their brethren to many quarters of the world, that they may manage the trade of their community. The products of the East are unshipped, and sent up this subterranean canal ; those of other countries arrive by one or other of the avenues already mentioned. The fourth road reaches westward, to the very heart of the Russian empire.

“ The entrances from without are so carefully concealed, that none but a Guebre can discover them. In case of extremity, a Guebre will sooner die than reveal these secret inlets to the asylum of his fellow-citizens. Agreeably to this maxim, each constantly carries about him a small portion of a most deadly poison, the effects of which are instantaneous. However, this dire necessity but seldom happens, the Guebres watching their time so well, and taking such wise precautions.

“ They have factors in almost every commercial state, who lay aside the garb of a Guebre, and mingle unsuspected with the mass of mankind. Their corn they import from China; also tea, porcelain, and raw silk: this last they work up (for they are excellent artists) into manufactures, which are afterwards exported,

ported, and sold in foreign countries by their agents, as commodities of the East Indies; the world little imagining that they are woven by the Guebres. Their works in gold, silver, and ivory, are also executed in the most admirable manner, and bear the highest price throughout Europe and Asia. The returns, consisting of the produce and manufactures of other countries, are faithfully and dexterously transmitted to them by their emissaries, and find their way to the subterranean city by those avenues which I have described.

“ When the goods arrive, they are lodged in public storehouses, for the benefit of the community; each taking what he hath occasion for: so that, as I observed in the former part of my story, there is no use amongst them for money. One maxim of their policy I

must not forget to notice: they never permit any but a native Guebre to go beyond the limits of their city: the temptation to abandon their society would prove, they think, too powerful to be resisted by an adopted citizen.

“ Their public warehouses display all manner of precious merchandise. Here each individual deposits the goods he hath manufactured, which, in due time, are exported by the magistrates appointed for that purpose. Thus, Sir Knight, are idleness and beggary unknown amongst them. Neither envy nor jealousy have place within their breasts; for equality is the basis of their commonwealth, and each takes some charge, or magistracy, in his turn.

“ The women of the Guebres are remarkable for beauty. I was exhorted
to

to choose me a wife from amongst them; but notwithstanding their attractions, and my oath at the altar to remain for ever a Guebre, I still felt a secret desire to depart from them. Shall I be imprisoned for my life, said I, in this gorgeous and wonderful dungeon? Shall I forswear the laws and the religion of Mohammed, for a proscribed, though ancient, idolatry? No; I will contrive to escape from this abyfs, and rejoin my superterranean fellow-creatures. Such, Sir Knight, were my secret meditations.

“ Soon after I had become a Guebre, I made acquaintance (which, ere long, increased to intimacy) with a person who had, but a few days before my arrival, been ensnared and carried down to the subterranean city. He was by birth a Tartar, and named Gerourou. To a friendly disposition he joined a most ardent

ardent and enterprising mind, and therefore could as ill brook imprisonment as I. We soon imparted to each other our discontent, and consulted on the means of escaping. At length, Gerourou proposed this expedient: 'As we are not native Guebres,' said he, 'permission to quit this abode is in no wise to be expected. Every avenue is vigilantly guarded: nevertheless, I do not despair of effecting our deliverance. There is a barge now loading at the canal with bales of merchandise for China: to-morrow she is to depart: two Guebres are to attend her to where the canal unites with the eastern sea. Let us then conceal ourselves underneath the packages: as soon as the barge hath proceeded a few leagues, we will rise upon the Guebres, and take upon ourselves the management: when we have reached the outer gate, we shall find ourselves at liberty.'

“ The

“The project of Gerourou delighted me: I panted for the hour at which we were to betake ourselves to our place of concealment: this, at length, we effected. At the distance of a league and a half from the city, we rose suddenly on the two Guebres, and, being stronger than they, bound them fast to the side of the vessel, and assumed the direction ourselves. At last, the wished-for day arrived, when the gates of the canal appeared full in prospect. We delivered up the barge to the Guebres, but took with us the two horses which had drawn it: these we then bestrode, and set forward for the kingdom of Thibet.

“Such, illustrious warrior, are the wonders which I have beheld.” Here the traveller concluded his story.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXII.

“I VOW to holy Paul, exclaimed the King of England, never, till this present hour, did I hear of such adventures. Marvellous, very marvellous are the events which have befallen you. And now, friend, said *Cœur-de-Lion*, addressing the second traveller, acquaint us, I beseech you, with what matters rare and formidable you likewise have beheld in the course of your peregrination.” The second traveller bowed, and accosted him in these words :

“I am a subject of the Grand Duke of Muscovy, and owe my being to an honest peasant near the borders of the Volga. Not long after I had attained the age of manhood, a Russian, named
Borowsky,

Borowsky, with whom I was connected in the closest bonds of friendship, informed me one day, that he had a secret to impart to me, relating to a certain enterprize in which he wished and hoped for my assistance. 'You are no stranger,' continued he, 'to the ambition of our Grand Duke, to render the trade with China as commodious to his people, as the situation of his empire will admit of.

'As it is well known, however, from reiterated calamities, that the passage over land is attended with much hazard, the caravans being necessitated to march through barbarous regions, infested by roving Tartars, who pillage the bales of merchandise, and not unfrequently destroy the merchants. The Grand Duke, therefore, solicitous for the welfare of his kingdoms, hath offered vast rewards to such as shall discover a
passage

passage by the ocean, round his northern territories, to the coasts of Japan and China : many learned men imagining that the measure is not impracticable.

‘ Hitherto, however, all endeavours have proved fruitless ; the ice having presented to them an insurmountable obstacle : nevertheless, I despair not of seeing this end accomplished. But my project for exploring the arctic regions is entirely different from any yet attempted : I have long revolved it in my mind, and am convinced that it is far from chimerical. You are young, my friend, and hardy ; have the courage to accompany me, and you shall share alike in the glory and in the reward.’

“ As I placed the highest confidence in the resolution and abilities of Borowsky, and felt likewise that curiosity which

which is incident to youth, I did not hesitate to agree with his proposal. He embraced me affectionately; declaring that, as soon as we should arrive at Tobolsky in Siberia, we would provide ourselves with whatever was necessary, and set out upon the expedition without farther delay.

" A few days afterwards we reached Tobolsky, whence (having made the needful provision), without meeting any sinister event, we pursued the usual road to Kamfschatka. We arrived at this place on the 13th of June; from which time, Borowsky kept a regular journal, according to the mode which is practised amongst the Europeans. Here we agreed with the master of a Russian vessel, to convey us northward, as far as the ice would permit him.

" On

"On the 16th, Sir Knight, we embarked with a pleasant breeze, taking with us a Kamschatkan, for whose services we judged that we should find occasion. We then steered for the strait which divides Asia from another continent, and soon saw plainly the opposite shores, which seemed as if they lamented their ancient separation. We saw likewise several birds, unknown to the southern climates, some of which were beautifully variegated with purple and gold spots. The captain, who was expert at his bow, shot one of them, which we roasted; the flesh was not tender, but yet tasted like that of a turkey.

"On the two following days we fell in with several pieces of floating ice, and found the atmosphere exceedingly cold. We continued our course due north.

north ; the ice, as we advanced, appearing in vast mountains.

“ At length, Sir Knight, in the latitude of 85 degrees, the ice became utterly impassable for navigators. We therefore paid off our captain, and prepared to quit the vessel ; being provided with the following necessaries, all of which we had brought with us from Tobolsky : A quantity of strong soup, boiled to a certain consistency, and left to harden, whereby it became portable ; some biscuit ; two small stoves, a small chafing-dish, and two bags of charcoal. We anointed our bodies with a certain preparation invented by Borowsky, and which, upon repeated trials, we had found to be a most excellent preservative from the violent effects of the cold in those arctic regions. We then put on each a shirt, and drawers, and stockings

of flannel; over these, a doublet, breeches, and boots lined with the warmest furs we could procure at Tobolsky; next these, a cloak of Russian fox-skin; and over all, an oiled linen, which covered us from the crown of the head to the knees, having glasses fixed to it for us to see through, and a convenient slit for breathing: this last was our best defence for repelling the attacks of the atmosphere.

“On our feet we wore furred slippers, with oil-cloth on the outside: to these we fitted skates. The Kamschatkan was apparelled exactly in the same fashion. Our provisions and utensils we disposed of thus: Borowsky and myself each shouldered a short pole, at one end of which hung a stove, at the other a bag of charcoal; our attendant, in like manner, carried the chafing-dish, soup, and
biscuit;

biscuit; on the other shoulder we sustained each a bear-skin coverlet, folded into a bundle.

“ Thus equipped, Sir Knight, we descended upon the ice: the captain of the vessel, Jacob Golwitz by name, recommended us to God, and took leave of us with tears in his eyes. We then set forward, skating along the intervals, or narrow vallies between the hills of ice, and, wherever obstructed, taking off our skates, and using instead of them a kind of shoe, which had short spikes in the soles: with these we climbed the frozen mountains. When arrived at a favourable spot, we had recourse to our skates again. In this manner we passed over a very extensive tract of ice; still steering due north, as far as the inequalities of the surface would permit us.

“When it grew late, we halted under the lee of a hill; and, spreading our bear-skins, which were at once our table-cloths, and beds, and sofas, and setting down our utensils, we proceeded, with the help of our chafing-dish, to cook some of our soup, which, it must be confessed, was a most comfortable meal to us, fatigued and hungry as we were.

“I forgot, Sir Knight, to mention, that we had amongst our stores three bottles of excellent brandy (each of us carrying one, well wrapped in flannel, in his bosom); a little of which (for we husbanded it carefully), mixed with snow-water, was our beverage. Our banquet concluded, we disposed ourselves for sleep, in the following manner: we lay so as to form a triangle, having our stoves, well replenished with charcoal, in the midst; thus each of us had

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an equal share of the warmth arising from them. Then, covered completely with our bear-skins, we recommended ourselves to Heaven, and soon fell into a sound sleep. On the 23d of June (for, although writing was impracticable, we journalised by memory), we awoke pretty early, much refreshed by our repose, and pursued our journey in the mode already described. Fortunately for us, we met with several of those vallies, or level sheets of ice, between the hills, which enabled us to proceed with prodigious expedition. On the 24th, we saw a white bear, which Borowsky, who was an excellent bow-man, brought down. We skinned it, and dressed some steaks upon our chafing-dish: this allowed us to save our portable soup. The following day we found ourselves in latitude 88, still steering due north. The cold was not much increased. We were all three

in good health and spirits, to which the exercise of skating not a little contributed.

“ On the 26th we continued skating with great vigour; the ice becoming less hilly, the nearer we advanced to the pole. About noon we ascended an eminence, from which we had a prospect of a distant mountain towering aloft pyramidically: it lay due north. What surprised us was, that it exhibited no appearance of having snow or ice either upon its summit or its sides. We now began to find the ice smoother every league, and (strange to think!) the air less rigorous. But the cause of this unexpected circumstance I shall explain, Sir Knight, hereafter. On the 28th, after a plentiful repast of our portable soup, we pursued our journey, and could distinctly discern the great mountain already
ready

ready mentioned. We saw likewise some birds, differing both in form and plumage from any we had ever seen before. Borowsky had the good fortune to shoot one, which we dressed; the flesh was tender and blackish, and tasted like venison. These birds were of a crimson colour, and bore upon their heads a crown, or tuft, which glittered like golden fringe; their legs and feet were perfectly white: these, as we afterwards learnt, are called Squakkoos. We also met, as we proceeded, many other polar fowls, equal, if not superior, in beauty to these last.

“On the 29th, we saw a wonderful animal, of the size of a common hare, and covered with a greyish fur. It bounded from ridge to ridge with the quickness of a flea, and sent forth a feeble and melancholy noise. The day

following, we found that we had arrived in latitude 89 degrees, 26 minutes. We were now within less than a degree of the pole; the great pyramidical mountain still bearing due north.

“ July 1st, we shot a white bear, and feasted on part of it. It was, in all probability, an old one; for it was exceedingly tough. The air was now more tolerable: the ice still improved: so that we made prodigious way with our skates on this and the succeeding day. On the 3d of July, we found, by the quadrant, that we were close to the pole, being then in the latitude of $89\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. The wind was westerly, and the air temperate; infomuch that we ventured to put off our outward defence of oiled linen. We also saw more strange birds, and another of those skipping animals which I have already described.

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On the 4th, we could discern the great mountain, spotted in various parts with verdure (a joyful sight to us, who, for so many days, had seen nothing but barrenness), and, towards the base, with woods. These objects excited us to redouble our diligence; so that, on the 5th of July, Sir Knight, we reached a large expanse of water, which stretched a great way both to the east and the west, but was considerably broader towards the east. It washed the base of the mountain, and was in breadth about a mile and a quarter, from the bank of ice on which we then stood. We now consulted the quadrant, and found that we were exactly at the pole; having every reason to believe that the stupendous hill before us was placed there by the hand of nature, as a mark of this most northern extremity of the globe: and, what is farther remarkable, there was
not

not a cloud upon its summit. We could indeed perceive a smoke arising from it, which confirmed us in the opinion that it was a volcano.

“The phænomenon, therefore, of such a vast expanse of unfrozen water beneath the very pole, now ceased to excite our astonishment; for, beyond all doubt, this, and the extraordinary mildness of the air, are owing to the sulphureous fires which lie inclosed within this mass of earth, and which give birth to warm exhalations, and heat the innumerable springs that are the offspring of the mountain; all concurring to meliorate the atmosphere.

“As we had, for several reasons, a most ardent desire to explore this lofty region, we dispatched our Kamschatkan, who

who was an expert swimmer, to the opposite shore, with directions to break down some large branches of trees, and, with ropes composed of twisted seaweed, of which there was great plenty, to form a raft, and rejoin us when it was completed. These works he effected in the course of a few hours; but as it was late when he returned, we deferred our departure till the following day. We were, however, in some anxiety lest our raft should float away while we slept. To fasten it to the mere ice, was impossible: at length, by a process which proved a little tedious, we secured it. We contrived to heat a small bar of iron red hot, with which we bored the ice; then inserted in the cavity a stick, to which we bound the rope that was connected with the raft. This done, we spread our bear-skins, and, having

ving taken our soup and biscuit, be-
took ourselves to rest, not without much
impatience for the morning, that we
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the polar mountain.

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placed our raft, and ha-

P. A. H. C.

C H A P. XXXIII.

“**A**T length the hour arrived, at which we had proposed to embark, if I may so express it : the raft was sufficiently large to contain not only ourselves but our baggage. We followed the current for some time, which carried us down the gulf about five hundred yards ; then, as we approached the land, plied our oars, which consisted of branches of trees, provided for that purpose by our attendant, the Kamschatkan. After struggling for a while with the tide, we reached the shore, and, having secured one raft, proceeded with joy unspeakable to ascend the mountain. In this, however, we experienced some difficulty ; the sides being exceedingly steep, and covered

covered with a crumbling earth, mixed with ashes and cinders, that had been thrown out by different eruptions of the volcano.

“For full three hours we laboured, and, at length, when almost spent with fatigue, gained a kind of natural terrace, from which rose that part of the mountain where the crater, as they term it, was contained. Here we enjoyed a prospect as flattering as it was sublime; for we now began to entertain a certainty that a north-west passage to Europe from the Indies was by no means unattainable. To the west, as far as with our glasses we could behold, extended an unfrozen sea, in a direction parallel to the northern coast of Asia, but separated from it by prodigious plains of ice, to the distance of at least two hundred leagues. Eastward this
sea

sea extended to the north-west coast of some continent, which we could descry like a blue mist upon the horizon.

“ To the south lay the frozen regions over which we had so successfully skated. Our view at the other side was as yet obstructed by the cone of the mountain, which soared above us. Having rested here, and refreshed ourselves with some brandy and water, we began to ascend the cone, which proved a matter of less difficulty than we at first expected. From its base, at the terrace, to the pinnacle, was about the fourth part of a league. As soon as we had reached the highest part, the part where the crater (which is of considerable circumference) was visible, we fell on our knees in a kind of pious rapture, at the sublime and wonderful prospect which then from every quarter of the compass
burst

burst upon our eyes. We had now an ample view of that side which the cone of the mountain had hitherto concealed from us. We could now discover a hilly tract of country, stretching far to the west, and washed by that unfrozen sea already taken notice of. By the light smoke which issued from several of the hills, we concluded them to be volcanos. This still further invigorated our position with respect to the causes of an atmosphere thus temperate, above what might have been expected at the polar regions; Nature, in some measure, counteracting the external rigours of this climate, by a vast and inexhaustible supply of heat within the bowels of the earth, discharging itself from time to time, and constantly exhaling warm vapours, and imparting its qualities to the very waters which gush from the clefts and hollows. Beyond the pole the ice again predominated,

minated, there being no volcanic land in its vicinity to mitigate, and, in a manner, civilize the atmosphere.

“ Fortunately there was a gentle breeze from the north-west, which carried to the southward the smoke that issued from the crater : so that on three sides our prospect was unobstructed; and with regard to the fourth, we were already but too well acquainted with that, to lament the intermitting obscurations that took place. We again consulted the quadrant, and found that we were exactly ninety degrees from the equator.

“ We could plainly, Sir Knight, discern on the northern coast of that unknown continent, a bay, or æstuary, which, on further observation, we conjectured to be the mouth of some great river.

“ Having fatiated our curiosity, we descended on the side opposite to that by which we had climbed the mountain. Here an unexpected, and indeed joyful sight, was presented to our eyes; we saw close to the shore, a large canoe, near which stood two persons of an uncouth habit and aspect. We hastened towards them, and made signs of a friendly disposition: upon which, one of them, an elderly man, approached, and, in a language which our attendant could interpret (it being but a dialect of the Kamschatkan tongue), inquired who we were, and how we had come thither. When he had heard that we had travelled so far across the ice, he expressed his astonishment by writhing his body into various shapes, and by striking the crown of his head with the palms of his hands.

“ We

" We asked, in our turn, whence and what he was? To which he replied, that he and his companion, who proved to be his son, had sailed in the canoe from a part of that unknown coast, near the mouth of the great river which I have already noted; that they were come thither in quest of certain little shells, of which his countrymen were remarkably fond; that the country from which he came, was called Ippikikka; and their chief, Diddi-doudi, a word signifying *Father of the Nation*; and that he and his companion were preparing to return, having gathered a good quantity of shells. These shells, which are most beautifully speckled, are strung on the dried intestines of the *fulgul* (an animal nearly resembling a sheep, but without wool), and afterwards worn about the neck, by way of ornament. We brought away some of them.

" As it was of the utmost consequence to our prosecution of the discovery of a passage for shipping in these parts, that we should explore the northern coast of that unknown continent, we immediately acquainted this native of Ippikkika that we would go along with him to his country, and see the Diddi-doudi. He seemed to be much pleased with the proposal. Accordingly we went on board his canoe, and, after doubling the point of the mountain, in order to bring off our baggage and provisions, steered directly across the gulf for the entrance of the great river, which, he informed us, was called the Garagurmuck.

" It was now late. We continued sailing, and occasionally rowing, all night. The sail was composed of the skins of beasts, sewed together with the twisted intestines of the *fulgul*. We had

had a steady breeze in our favour; so that, early in the morning of July 7, we entered the mouth of the Garagurmuck, which appeared to be about a league and a half in breadth. We saw several of the Ippikikka people going out to fish in their canoes: they were all struck with wonder at the sight of us, and lay upon their oars, or paddles, to gaze at us, as we passed. They then made the same odd gesticulations which our conductor had exhibited, when we met him at the foot of the frozen mountain.

"As soon as we were ashore, we set up our chafing-dish, and cooked our soup, some of which we gave to Whimnoo (for so our conductor was named), and to his son Billakou; but the moment they tasted it, they spit it out, with evident marks of great aversion; their

food consisting only of fish, and roots, and wild herbs.

“ By this time many of the natives had assembled upon the bank, and crowded round us, making, in token of their wonder, the usual contortions, and striking their heads with the palms of their hands. Our stoves and chafing-dish excited also their admiration : but not one of them would taste our soup ; the very smell of it seemed offensive to them.

“ When we had finished our meal, we asked Whimnoo, where the Diddidoudi lived? He replied, ‘ Beyond the woods ;’ pointing to a deep forest which lay within half a league of us. We said we would go to him, if Whimnoo would conduct us. To this he cheerfully agreed. We therefore provided
our-

ourselves with a kind of shoe, made of undressed leather, and fastened with thongs to the ankle; for neither our skates, nor our spiked shoes, were here of any service to us. Our baggage we conveyed in the same manner which we had practised in our journey across the ice. Billakou likewise bore us company.

“ We met several detached parties of the natives on our way: their behaviour was quite harmless and peaceable. Their dress, weapons, customs, and way of living, I shall describe hereafter. We soon arrived at the forest, which we passed in a few hours. Nothing material occurred, except that poor Borowsky, unfortunately slipping his foot, fell into a deep pit, the orifice of which was concealed by weeds and briars. My distress on this occasion was extreme; for, as he uttered no cry or noise whatsoever, we

concluded for certain, that he was killed. How to descend the pit in search of him, was the question. At length Whimnoo and his son (who seemed both to be much affected) gathered up a quantity of a certain plant, which they call the *mattawaka*, and twisted it into ropes, which were afterwards joined together.

“By means of these ropes Billakou descended, and after him the Kamschatkan: in a little time they holla'd to us, and desired us to pull up; for that they had fastened the ropes to the arms of Borowsky. Accordingly Whimnoo and myself, who remained above in anxious expectation, applied all our force, and with great exertion drew out my unhappy friend, who appeared to be quite senseless. However, upon rubbing and chafing him, and exposing him to the air, we at length brought him to himself.

self. Fortunately, he had received no other hurt than a contusion on his head, which was occasioned by the stove, that hung upon his pole, striking against him as he fell. The bottom of the pit being full of mire, he escaped without further harm.

“ As we advanced, we saw a flock of birds, which Whimnoo called *bibbuks*: we shot two, and dressed them. The flesh was very white, and had the taste of chicken. The colour of these birds is a perfect yellow; and they make a shrill, disagreeable noise, very similar to the screaming of a peacock.

“ It was rather late when we reached a sort of village, or encampment, consisting of a great number of huts, the habitations of the Ippikikkans: they call it Wookanaboo. Here dwelt the
Diddi-

Diddi-doudi, in a hut considerably larger than the rest, and surrounded by a sort of palisade, that formed a spacious court.

“No sooner, Sir Knight, had we entered this village, than a prodigious crowd, consisting of men, women, and children, assembled about us, and, by their strange gesticulations, denoted their surprise. We took up our abode for that night with a venerable Ippikikan, a friend of Whimnoo. We cooked our soup, and partook of a kind of bread, presented to us by our host, which is very palatable, and made of the boiled roots of *plaxamannak*, a plant whose qualities are nutritive and salubrious.

“The following day, we were conducted to the residence of Diddy-doudi.

This

This chief was a person in years, who, in spite of his uncouth garb, had something of dignity in his appearance. He received us sitting on a bear-skin, which was placed in the middle of a circular apartment. About his neck were several chains, composed of those speckled shells which Whimnoo had been gathering on the polar island; from his ears hung pendants formed of the polished teeth of the *fulgul*, and of the talons of the *wappamaranna*, a strong and ferocious bird of prey, peculiar to the northern regions of that new-discovered continent. His nose was adorned with a piece of mother-of-pearl, of an oval shape: on his head he wore a bonnet of fables, with a long flap depending from it behind, and on his shoulders a mantle of beaver-skin, which was fastened on his breast with the tooth of some fish. Except a row of scarlet and black feathers

thers round his middle, the rest of his body was bare.

“ The dress of the people differed little from that of Diddi-doudi. They had fewer ornaments, and no flap to the hind part of their bonnets. These were the sole distinctions. The women wore a kind of short petticoat, made of the skins of foxes, and sometimes of the feathers of the *wappamaranna*, curiously interwoven. The rest of their apparel was the same with that of the men,

“ Diddi-doudi, by means of our Kamtschatkan, asked us many questions concerning our voyage, and what our object was in undertaking it; and at various parts of our narration made violent contortions, to signify his wonder at our temerity. He desired to see our skates,

skates, which he handled with deep attention, as did likewise his family and attendants. How such a pair of shoes (for so they termed them) could transport a person so many leagues across the frozen waters, was to them almost incredible.

“ After some further conversation, Diddi-doudi told us we should eat with him. In a little time his attendants brought in a boiled fish, of a prodigious size; they call it *goxagoxa*; the taste of it was not unpleasant. This was followed by several other kinds of fish, some of which were good, and some extremely unpalatable. But there was no flesh meat whatever: the Ippikikkans entertain an abhorrence for it. Our drink was the juice of the *pilwap* tree, which yields an abundance of a certain reddish liquor of an agreeable flavour, and not
intox-

intoxicating. Our brandy was already exhausted: we, however, presented the Diddi-doudi with one of the empty bottles, with which he was beyond measure delighted. This, and one of our stoves, to which he took a liking, procured us the firm friendship of this aged chief, and several good offices, which highly contributed to our subsequent discoveries.

“ The men of Ippikikka are, in general, well formed, strong, and more of a square make, than inclining to tallness. They are expert fishers, and venture very far to sea in their canoes, which are made of a sort of wicker-work covered with skins, and which they manage with great skill and dexterity. They also hunt frequently, but merely to obtain the furs and horns of animals, or sometimes for the sake of exercise.

“ The

“ The women, considered abstractedly from their dress, which is far from becoming, are not at all unhandsome. Many of them appeared to have an elegance of shape and mien, that might vie with European or Asiatic beauty. They are gentle, and submissive to their husbands, are ingenious in weaving those feathered garments, and sometimes even assist in building their huts, and in hunting and fishing.

“ The weapons of the Ippikikkans consist of a short javelin, pointed with a sharpened shell, or flint; this they hurl to a vast distance, very rarely missing their mark. This, and a massy club, made of the wood of the *yoxa* tree, are the only arms we saw amongst them.

“ They have an implicit reverence for the Diddi-doudi, whose office is not here-

hereditary, but elective: nevertheless, if the son of a deceased Diddi-dboudi discover any abilities for that supreme station, and be of sufficient years, they usually give him the preference. We did not find that the election of this magistrate occasioned any discord or feuds amongst them. His power is twofold; partly military, and partly pontifical: it is his to determine the few differences which can arise amongst a people who have little to possess, and, consequently, little to contend for.

“ The religion of Ippikikka consists in paying a most servile, but yet unbloody adoration to the skin of a boar, stuffed with feathers, and placed upon the posteriors, under a great tree, venerable for its age, and admirable for its magnitude. When they come in presence of this idol, they squat upon their

hams, and bow their heads between their knees; then, in a little time after, send forth, in concert, a hideous yelling, the Diddi-doudi, as it were, leading the band. This done, they crawl towards the idol, and offer up the roots of the *plaximannak*, small fishes, and other insignificant oblations. They call this deity Ouronkoukou, and believe that he can not only plague them in this life, but also confine them after death in the fiery caverns of the polar mountain.

“ With respect to a state of happiness hereafter, their ideas are very moderate. They imagine that they shall go, provided that they have been good, to some place beyond the ice, at a great distance from Ippikikka; there to sleep, and eat the bread of the *plaximannak*, and drink the liquor of the *pilwap* tree.

C H A P. XXXIV.

“ **W**E found, Sir Knight, by interrogating Diddi-doudi, that the great river Garagurmuk extended considerably up the country ; taking its rise among the mountains to the south-east, then making a bend, or sweep, towards the west ; after which it pursues its course due north, till it finally disembogues its waters into that sea which washes the polar island. In winter it is frozen ; but, in summer, would be navigable for vessels of any burden.

“ We had an ardent desire to sail up this river ; as it was strongly our opinion that, by means of it, farther lights might be thrown upon the grand object
that

that we had in view. Accordingly we imparted our wishes to Diddi-doudi, who, both as a mark of his personal regard for ourselves, and of his zeal to serve the useful end of our expedition, declared his intention of accompanying us, in order to procure us every necessary information from the natives of the countries on either side the Garagurmuk.

“ This project could the more readily be put in execution, as there was then peace between the Berokoko, or prince, of the Sipparabaw nation (a warlike and powerful tribe, inhabiting the province that lies immediately to the southward), and the Diddi-doudi of Ippikikka.

“ Early, therefore, on the 9th of July, the royal canoe was in readiness to attend us, together with three others, well laden with provisions, and also with our baggage

gage and utensils. Several of the people ran along the bank for many miles, in token of their respect and officiousness to Diddi-doudi.

“The country, on both sides of the Garagurmuk, is extremely woody, chiefly with the fir and the *yoxa*; there are also several species of trees peculiar to this climate, which grow in great abundance on these fertile banks. We here saw again that skipping animal, already described in a former part of my narration; the natives call it the *grumgrik*, that is, the *flea-skipper*. Diddi-doudi sent two of them, a male and a female, as a present to the Duke of Muscovy, in whose palace they are now to be seen.

“The current of the Garagurmuk is by no means violent; a circumstance that

that renders it extremely favourable to the purposes of navigation : and, for so broad and deep a river, I never beheld water so clear. We could perceive the bottom, in many places, through a depth of sixteen fathoms ; and innumerable quantities of small fishes, of various beautiful and uncommon dies, sporting in the limpid wave. It is likewise accounted salubrious by the natives, who drink of it, and bathe in it, for the cure of such distempers as they are subject to.

“ When night came on, we landed, and set up a tent, and our stoves ; and, having spread our bear-skins, and taken some refreshment, disposed ourselves to sleep.

“ The following day we continued our voyage. It was the opinion of Diddidoudi, that the Garagurmuk was, in

some part, at no great distance from another river of considerable magnitude. Our joy at hearing this was excessive; as it coincided with the notion we ourselves had entertained with respect to such a matter. We were therefore determined to be certified of this circumstance, by penetrating as far as we could, and surveying their respective situations.

“ At night we halted at Esquimanna, a famous temple of their god Ouroukoukou: hither they perform pious journeys, which are much in the nature of pilgrimages. To swear by the temple at Esquimanna, is the most sacred and tremendous oath that an Ippikikkan can take; and to violate it, is a perjury which nothing can expiate. The temple itself is a vast round edifice, constructed of fods and wattles, and thatched with broad leaves: within it, is an altar, and

and a stuffed boar-skin. This place is about ten leagues from Wookanaboo, the capital of the dominions of Diddi-doudi. The next day we passed by some thick woods, and saw, for the fourth time, the *grumgrik*, and had a distant view of the *whappamaranna*, in pursuit of a flock of smaller birds. We put up, for the night, at a town, or village, called Tootoo.

“ July 12th, we proceeded on our voyage, having the assistance of a steady breeze to waft us up the river, which exhibited on both sides several delicious views. On the 14th, we arrived at the bend of the river, where it verges towards the west; at which we were overjoyed, as we hoped, ere long, to reach that part of it where, according to the opinion of Diddi-doudi, the Garagurmuk approached the other river. On the 15th, at

noon, we halted at Quixocoa, a romantic valley. Borowsky shot a *whappamaranna*: we dressed it, but could not eat of it, for it had a rank taste. The Ippikikkans used to behold us with a mixture of pity and surprise, when we ate the flesh of fowls, or of any other animal, fish excepted: not that they have any ideas of the transmigration of souls.

“ On the 16th, we quitted our canoes, and advanced over land towards the other great river, and on the 17th arrived at its banks; the distance from the Garagurmuk being only eleven leagues. The former is navigable from this place to the very mouth of it; there is likewise depth of water for ships of any burden; we ourselves, and the Diddidoudi, having rowed down it a considerable way, in one of the canoes of the country.

“ Here

“Here then, Sir Knight, let us take a retrospect of what I have travelled over; and thence I will state my reasons for considering a north-west passage as now clearly discovered. I have already shewn, that the polar island, the region which lies to westward of it, and also the country of Ippikikka, are, in the highest degree, volcanic; and that the seas immediately bordering upon these countries are, in summer, sufficiently unfrozen to answer every purpose of navigation. I have ascribed this extraordinary mildness of the climate to the warm exhalations which constantly arise from these volcanic regions. It may likewise be partly owing to other causes, to us unknown.

“But, said my friend Borowsky, if any person is inclined to dispute the possibility of a vast portion of unfrozen
water

water existing at the very pole, and so near immense kingdoms of ice, as one may term them, we have it in our power to adduce a parallel instance in two considerable lakes that are situated in that part of Britain called Scotland; one of which hath never any ice upon it, while the other, which is at no great distance from the former, is very frequently frozen to a severe degree. The cause of this difference is yet a problem amongst philosophers.

“ This then being laid down as a comfortable position, I proceed to offer such advice to future navigators, as I think will enable them to surmount, or rather avoid, those difficulties which have hitherto repeatedly frustrated their endeavours to discover the so long wished-for passage.

“ It

“It is my decided opinion, Sir Knight, that navigators sailing from Europe have committed a fatal error, in not directing their course much farther to the north-west, when they arrive within the latitude of 84 degrees. It is therefore my serious recommendation to them, to stretch away considerably to the north-west. In latitude $85\frac{1}{2}$, or in 86, at farthest, they will come to unfrozen water; let them then steer vigorously eastward, till they arrive in sight of the Polar Island, which they cannot mistake; they must afterwards run down a little to the southward, then double the first cape, and clear the straits; afterwards, coasting along by cape *Borowsky*, from which they will have an unobstructed course to the mouth of the Garagurmuk.

“Having thus, Sir Knight, I hope, satisfactorily pointed out the practicability,

bility, nay facility of the passage, as far as the northern coast of the new-discovered continent, I shall now show how the voyage may be completed. The distance between the Garagurmuk and the neighbouring river is, as I have already observed, but eleven leagues; through which, as the country is level, a canal might be cut with all the ease imaginable, and a glorious junction formed between two great rivers, navigable for vessels of any burden. It is needless to remark, that when ships have arrived off the mouth of the second river, the passage to the Indies is indubitable.

“ We have the strongest reasons to believe, that the natives of the countries bordering on those two rivers will give every assistance towards effecting a canal, and facilitating this stupendous navigation; they being extremely desirous of trafficking

trafficking with the Europeans. The Diddi-doudi of Ippikikka manifested a warm desire of entering into a league of amity with the Sovereign of Muscovy, to whom he sent, by Borowsky, many valuable furs, and curious animals.

“ Having succeeded to our utmost wishes in discovering a northern passage, and given to the two capes of the Polar Island our names, we took an affectionate leave of the Diddi-doudi, and proceeded down the last-mentioned river, at the entrance of which we expected to find Jacob Golwitz, our captain, whom we had appointed to tarry for us there. Nothing material occurred as we passed downward. We found Golwitz in readiness, and exceedingly rejoiced to behold us once more, as he had entertained strong fears that we should perish on the ice.

“ The

" The 28th of July we set sail, and arrived the day following at Kamschatka, from which place we set forward for the capital of Muscovy.

" The Great Duke, to whom we delivered a full relation of our discoveries, was in raptures at the success we had obtained; and gave order to his treasurer to pay us the promised reward. A fleet was fitted out for an expedition to the Polar Island, in pursuance of our observations and instructions; but the sudden death of the Sovereign destroyed, at a single stroke, all those projects of utility and grandeur; for his successor, a brutish and unenterprising prince, neglected the arts and sciences, and the interests of navigation.

" Nevertheless, I will venture to predict, that, in centuries hereafter, some power-

powerful and good potentates, reviving this stupendous measure (for tradition will hand it down to posterity), will dispatch their skilful mariners to explore those arctic climes, and ascertain the wished-for passage between Europe and the Indies. Thus, Sir Knight, have I recounted to you, with accuracy and fidelity, the history of my travels; travels till now unheard of in any age or nation."

He ended; and the King of England, amazed, delighted, with his wondrous narrative, awarded him the victory without a moment of hesitation.

C H A P. XXXV.

THE prize being thus disposed of, the two foreigners repaired to the city, where they intended to purchase merchandise; and King Richard and the minstrel to a neighbouring priory, where they were hospitably received by the Superior. But when the orient sun admonished them to depart, they demanded their courfers, and, having thanked the reverend fathers, pursued their journey to the Low Countries with unremitted celerity.

No adventures befel them on the way, that are worthy of being recorded in the chronicles of chivalry. They passed through divers cities renowned
for

for trade and opulence, and at length arrived in Antwerp, which is the glory of all the Netherlands. It was now determined between them, that King Richard should tarry for a few days in that metropolis; as the wounds which he had received in his conflict with the beasts that defended *the Tower of the Rock*, required the healing hand of the surgeon, and that, in the mean while, Fitzherbert should proceed to the Court of England, to proclaim the near approach of their long-expected Sovereign.

The minstrel, therefore, set forward without delay, and, having embarked in a trading vessel that was sailing down the Scheld, soon descried the white cliffs of Britain. He had scarce landed on his native shore, when the people, who well knew him, crowded round him from every quarter, inquiring with eager

voices for the welfare of their lord. But when Fitzherbert announced his coming, they rent the concave heavens with their reiterated acclamations.

The glad tidings quickly spread from town to town; infomuch that the minstrel, on his arrival in the capital, had only to confirm what rumour had already reported. With difficulty could he make his way to the palace at Westminster; with difficulty could he sit his palfrey, so ardent was the curiosity of the populace to learn from him particulars concerning their beloved *Cœur-de-Lion*. At length he gained the palace, where he delivered to the Lords of the Council, the important information that King Richard was then at Antwerp, and would, ere many days were past, revisit his kingdom of England, and reassume the reins of government.

Where-

Whereupon the great Officers of State, together with the venerable Counsellors, deemed it fitting that the Barons of the realm should be assembled in the great hall of the palace at Westminster; to the end that they might be acquainted, in a parliamentary way, with the message then received from the Sovereign, and deliberate on what measures were most proper to be pursued, on an occasion of such weight and magnitude. These things effected, the minstrel took shipping for the Netherlands, in order to report to royal *Cœur-de-Lion* the condition of affairs in England.

The hero, now finding his wounds no longer troublesome, departed from the city of Antwerp, and journeyed to the sea-coast, accompanied by Fitzherbert. Being arrived within sight of the German Ocean, his great heart beat with

transport, and his soul experienced the most lively joy. He alighted from his courser. Many annual revolutions of the sun had passed away, since Richard last beheld those surly waves which guarded his England from her enemies. "Ye fainted Powers of heaven," the Monarch cried, "by whose benignant aid I once more survey that deep which embraces my native territory, continue, I implore ye, your protecting care; waft me in speed and safety to the British shore, and grant that I may re-ascend, amidst the prayers of a delighted people, the throne of my illustrious and invincible progenitors."

He said; and turning to Fitzherbert, added, "Minstrel, lo! the immortals are propitious; the winds and the waves invite us to depart. Let us speed to yonder fishing-town, where already I
espy

espy the nimble barks expand their sails, preparing to quit the harbour." So saying, he remounted Arlino, and, followed by Fitzherbert, proceeded to the fishing-town, where he readily procured a vessel, to convey them to the coast of Kent.

The gale was loud, but propitious ; so that, early on the ensuing morn, they discerned the high cliffs of Dover. And now they approach the land ; now they press the yielding beach with eager footsteps : the people throng around, and recognize their Sovereign. The old weep for joy, the young shout in admiration. " Richard the lion-hearted is returned !" exclaim the many, while earth and skies re-echo the loyal uproar. At every town and village through which the Monarch passed, the inhabitants ran forth to hail him ; while even

the little children from the windows
 lisped aloud, " Richard the lion-hearted
 is returned."

These testimonies were grateful to his
 generous soul. There is no music so
 delightful to a royal ear, as the accla-
 mations of an affectionate people. At
 length, about a mile from the metropolis,
 he was met by the Mayor and Aldermen,
 and by the militia of the Londoners ;
 soon after, by the great Officers of State
 and of the Household, by divers Lords
 and Knights, and by the Bishops,
 Abbots, and other dignitaries of the
 kingdom.

" I will not here describe the various
 pomps that were displayed, nor the
 manner in which these several orders
 were arranged ; that belonging more
 parti-

particularly to the office of an herald, than to the inditer of a chronicle of this exalted nature. Suffice it to record, that, when King Richard had arrived at Southwark, and at the Fields of Saint George, he could with difficulty proceed; so prodigious was the multitude, so fervent their curiosity. When he reached the palace of Westminster, he rejoiced to behold once more those majestic edifices from which he had been so long estranged.

Being thus restored to the habitation of his ancestors, very great was the concourse of Barons, Knights, and Ladies, Ecclesiastics, and Men of Law, to congratulate and compliment their long-lost Sovereign. In the evening there was a sumptuous ball, brilliant with the presence of innumerable dames

and damsels, of illustrious condition,
and of inestimable beauty. "By my
Holidame," cried King Richard, "I
have not seen so fair an assemblage in
the course of all my chivalry."

C H A P. XXXVI.

ON the following day, the Barons, Prelates, and Abbots, being convened, King Richard made a speech from the throne in these expressions: "Illustrious Peers, after so long an absence from my kingdom, after a series of victories for the glory of the Christian name,—after a captivity so tedious and so afflicting, the high heavens have at length permitted that I should return to my beloved people, and reassume the sceptre of my progenitors. Illustrious Peers, it is with the sincerest joy that once more I meet you here assembled. The animated testimonies of loyalty and love which I have received since my arrival on my native shore, have penetrated my heart,

heart, and left there such impressions as cannot, while I have life, be obliterated.

“ From these forcible instances of national attachment, I am induced, illustrious Barons, to hope, that subsidies proportionate to the exigencies of the State, which it grieves me to say are pressing, will be cheerfully contributed, and that the wisdom of this august Body will effectually provide for the remedying those disorders which unavoidably have arisen, while our force and treasures were employed in distant regions.

“ I am afflicted, illustrious Peers, to revive the memory of mine adversities; afflicted for your sakes, as well as for mine own. But the injuries, the insults, which, as a monarch and as a man, I have

have experienced from certain of the continental Princes, are such, illustrious Peers, as call aloud for retribution; and with the favour of the Powers celestial, and with the concurrence of my warlike subjects, I will speedily and terribly revenge them.

“ There is one other object, Peers, which I trust you yourselves have as much at heart as I have. I allude to the crusade in Palestine*. Much hath been done already (the blessed saints be praised for our successes), much still remains to be done. Jerusalem still groans beneath the sceptre of the Infidels. As soon, therefore, as we shall have settled the administration of this kingdom upon a solid and secure basis, and hurled vengeance

* This was one of the first objects, after his return to England. See the several historians.

geance on our enemies in the West, let us arm, heroic nobles, for the East once more, to complete the overthrow of those despisers of the Cross, and re-establish a Christian monarchy on the ruins of their despotism." So spake King Richard.

The speech from the throne was received with approbation; and the Sovereign having retired, the Lord Baron Fitzhervey, a young nobleman of great hopes, arose, and moved the Peers, that an humble address should be presented to his Highness, in the form and tenor following; being, as usual, little more than an echo of the speech: "Magnanimous and beloved Monarch, we, the Barons spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled, approach your royal person with unfeigned joy and comfort, for the prosperous return of your Highness

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ness to this kingdom; an event for which, with the devoutest gratitude, we adore and magnify the immortals. We behold with rapture, magnanimous and beloved Prince, the inferior orders emulating the affection of your faithful Barons, and augur from these omens the future progress of a reign illustrious for your Highness, and auspicious for your people.

“ We receive, intrepid Sovereign, with respect and hilarity, the requisition of your Highness for the vote of another subsidy, and humbly assure your Highness, that we will speedily and vigorously attend to those disorders, the suppression of which your Highness hath most graciously recommended to us.

“ We sincerely condole with your Highness, when we reflect on those misfor-

misfortunes which have filled all Europe with so just an indignation; and beseech you, magnanimous and intrepid hero, to believe, that your loyal Barons are prepared, both with their purses and with their swords, to assist in avenging the wrongs of their beloved Sovereign, and that, not only upon this, but upon all other occasions likewise, they will rejoice at the opportunity of signalizing their attachment, as well personally to your Highness, as to the august race of the Plantagenets.

“ At the same time, heroic Monarch, we felicitate your Highness upon your many splendid achievements, which have added new lustre to a name already glorious in the chronicles of chivalry; more especially on your conflict at *the Tower of the Rock*, and your conclusion
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of that perilous and unparalleled adventure.

“ In fine, we assure your Highness of equal willingness and alacrity, on the part of your faithful Barons, to continue the important enterprize for the recovery of the Holy Land; in the fervent and pious hope, that our exertions in a cause so sanctified, will not only augment the puissance and celebrity of your Highness, and accelerate the emancipation of our fellow-christians in Judea, but likewise draw down a blessing from the heavens upon ourselves, and even upon our remotest posterity.”
Here ended the Lord Fitzhervey.

The motion for the address was then seconded by the Lord De Ferrers, and an amendment proposed by the Lord Abbot of Croyland; namely, to beseech
his

his Highness to bestow some mark of his royal favour upon the minstrel Fitzherbert, for the service he had rendered to the whole English nation, in having been instrumental to the deliverance of his Highness." But this motion was immediately over-ruled; it being the opinion of the noble Barons, that it became not the Great Council, to pretend to direct the gratitude and munificence of the Sovereign, who most assuredly entertained (said they) a just sense of the merits of the minstrel Fitzherbert, and would reward him in such manner as should seem best to his royal wisdom.

The business of the address being thus disposed of, the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, a sturdy and crabbed Baron of an ancient but honest family, arose, and expressed himself as follows: "I have no objection, august Barons, to the demonstra-

monstrations of affection contained in the address to his Highness. They are due to a Sovereign who hath been long absent from his throne, and whose adversities have rendered him an interesting object to a brave and generous people. But as his Highness hath been graciously and wisely pleased to exhort us to rectify the disorders of the realm, it is my intention, august Barons, to move you, that this House, when the affair of the subsidy shall be concluded, do proceed without delay to consider of the state of the nation.

“ And furthermore, august Barons, it is my unalterable resolution to follow up this motion with one other, for the impeachment of the Grand Justiciary*;

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and

* Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, who was likewise Chancellor of England, and Legate of the Pope.

and of certain other persons inauspiciously entrusted with the administration of affairs, during the absence of his Highness from this kingdom. These, high-descended Barons, are the disorders I would remedy, these the wounds I would heal; wounds which, alas! from long neglect have festered, and now endanger the entire mass of the political economy. The people have been impoverished and oppressed, the clergy pillaged and persecuted, the Barons driven from their due place in the constitution; men of unblemished lives have been wantonly and wickedly arraigned as caitiffs; high-born individuals have experienced grievous contumelies; Prelates, venerable for their age, for their virtue, honourable for their vocation and dignity, have been daringly imprisoned for their upright and

and unbending opposition to iniquity; * revenge and rapine have been let loose upon the kingdom; castles have been forced, granaries burst open, the sacred repositories of the convents violated; and all this, illustrious Nobles, to gratify the resentments of an aspiring few, and administer to their immeasurable and stupendous sensuality. Hath agriculture flourished, under this disastrous domination? The mournful and sterility aspect of the country proves the negative. Hath commerce known prosperity? The emptiness and silence at the Cinque Ports prove the negative. Our merchants have exercised piracy, not trade; our soldiery, degenerated into ferocious banditti, have been the scourge, not the safe-guard of the community.

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“ Finally,

* Alluding to Hugh Bishop of Durham, joint Justiciary, and Geoffrey Archbishop of York, natural brother to the King.

“ Finally, august Barons, the calamities of this kingdom are so alarming and so manifold, that unless the Crown and Parliament interpose for her salvation, her ruin will ere long be complete.”

So spake the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter. Immediately after him, rose a valorous and potent Peer, William Earl of Pembroke and Strogul*, Earl Marshal of England, who thus addressed the Assembly: “ With undescrivable satisfaction, illustrious and gallant Lords, have I listened to the invective of the Baron who hath just spoken; an invective warranted by truth, and dictated by patriotism. The grievances of the land under the late Administration, require

* Who married the sole heiress of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke and Strogul, better known by the surname of *Strongbow*.

quire undelayed redress; and I trust that heroic Nobles will, both strenuously and unanimously, co-operate in the measure propounded by the vigilant and gallant Baron who preceded me."

Here ended the Earl Marshal, who had no sooner resumed his seat, than the Lord Bardolph bounced up, and thus delivered his opinion: "I wish, for my own part, noble Peers, that when Barons address this Assembly, they would endeavour to support what they utter with somewhat that bears resemblance to argument and proof; for, notwithstanding the panegyric just bestowed on the invective (as it hath properly been termed) of the noble Baron who spoke last but one, I protest I could see nothing in it, except loud declamation, incapable of answering any other purposes, than to misemploy the time of noble Barons, sow the seeds of dis-

content, and interrupt the harmony of the nation."

This said, the Lord Bardolph sat down. Whereupon the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter arose, and replied in the words which follow: "I should feel myself afflicted, illustrious Nobles, at what hath this moment fallen from a Baron on the other side of the Hall, if I considered his opinion to be of much consequence in this Assembly. The Baron calls for argument. The hour of argument is not yet come (I did but preface): when it shall have come, facts are the arguments I mean to use; facts unfolded by indisputable deponents; facts attested by insurmountable authority. And now, ere I close my lips, let me here admonish that giddy Baron to beware henceforward in what manner he expresses himself, relative to
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my sentiments or behaviour in this Assembly. Shall the ass lift the hoof at the lion? *Nemo me impunè lacescit*. He who shoots his arrow against me, shall find it returned to him dipped in mortal venom."

Here ceased the Lord Fitz-Peter. But the Lord Bardolph wriggled on his bench, and looked foolish for the rest of the session.

The Lord Abbot of Westminster now moved the question of adjournment; a motion which aroused Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk: "It is not without surprise, illustrious Barons, observed he, that I hear the reverend Dignitary solicit us to adjourn, when I reflect that no unimportant share of those very outrages which are the subject of the present discussion, were, during the late misgovernment,

directed against the Clergy. Methinks, illustrious Nobles, that the venerable Lord should be the last in this Assembly to come forward with such a motion, the effect of which would most clearly be to retard, if not annihilate, the measure for chastising the authors of those violences, to which the ecclesiastics have been particularly exposed. I shall therefore, noble Barons, conclude with expressing my wish and expectation that the reverend Abbot will not insist upon his motion."

Thus spake the Earl of Norfolk. He was followed by the valiant Earl of Salisbury*, who said, "I apprehend, illustrious Barons, that an expedient may be found, which will at once meet the ideas

* Surnamed *Longsword*, and natural son of King Henry the Second.

ideas of the Lord Abbot of Westminster, and of the high-descended Earl who hath deprecated his motion. Except that of the Lord Abbot, there is, as yet, strictly speaking, no motion before the House. The patriotic Baron who spoke first in the debate, after the address to his Highness had been decided on, hath declared his intention of moving this Assembly to take the state of the kingdom into consideration, as soon as the business of the subsidy shall be concluded. Now I do not conceive why that noble-minded Baron may not as well, nay preferably, make his motion at this instant, without tarrying for the business of the subsidy, which, in the present temper of the House, appears likely to be carried through as a mere matter of course. The motion once made, we may then, illustrious
Barons,

Barons, adjourn; thus gratifying the venerable Dignitary, without injuring the measure which is at present in agitation."

This said, the Earl of Salisbury resumed his seat; and the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter thus addressed the great Assembly: "I am thankful to the heroic Earl who hath just spoken; first, for his approbation of the object I have in view, and, secondly, for the hint which he hath afforded me, with respect to the mode of procedure. I therefore, august Barons, now move you, that this House do meet again on Thursday next, *to consider of the state of the nation.*

The motion was seconded by the Earl of Pembroke and Strogul; and the question being put by the Lord Bishop of Winchester,

Winchester (he presiding in the absence of the Chancellor), was carried by a majority of seventy-five to fifteen.

This done, the Barons adjourned.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXVII.

NO sooner was it known in the metropolis, that the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, a very popular Baron, had made a speech relating to the distresses of the land, and that the condition of the kingdom was to be considered on the ensuing Thursday, than vast multitudes were seized with a keen desire to be present, they expecting to hear *great speaking*.

Prodigious therefore was the concourse which assembled at the entrance of the great Hall of Westminster, early, very early in the morning. This assemblage consisted, for the major part, of ladies, who, as soon as the doors were thrown open,

open, rushed impetuously forward, despising the spears and battle-axes which menaced them in front, and the entreaties of the Grand Chamberlain, who implored them to go quietly. The guards were trampled down, and run over (for they dared not touch the ladies with their weapons); the multitude poured onward like the billows of the vexed ocean : some screeched, some screamed, some scolded, some fainted, some prayed, some wept; some lost their shoes and stockings, some their ruffs, some their veils, some the skirts of their apparel; some bewailed their bruised members, and others the crumbled cakes and confections wherewith they had not improvidently stored their pockets. In fine, the great hall was in an uproar, the Great Chamberlain in an agony.

Sorry

Sorry am I, benignant reader, that my duty, as a true chronicler, compels me to record occurrences so unfavourable to the fair. But thus it was in the reign of Richard, and even in times antecedent thereto; it having been a custom introduced at the Norman conquest, for dames and damsels to resort to public councils, and to have a fondness for listening to what they did not understand. The tumult at length subsided, and the rioters were peaceably deposited in the galleries.

And now a few Barons appear; now they chat upon the benches; now others drop in, and others; now the house begins to thicken; now the hum of confused voices is heard; now the Chancellor takes the wool-sack; now prayers are read; after which, but not till then,
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the assembly becomes full, very full. In fine, order is proclaimed, and silence recommended. Each Baron puts on his best gravity: even the ladies hold their peace, and bewitchingly hang over the galleries. Forthwith the scribe of Parliament read the order of the day; which done, the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter rose up, and, having thrown his eyes around him, harangued the Peers as follows: "On a former day, august and martial Barons, I had the honour to address you with regard to a subject which very deeply concerns the fame, the justice, the prosperity of this kingdom. The applause, august Barons, which you bestowed on what I uttered, and the splendid majority by which my motion proved victorious, have added fuel to my zeal, have new-whetted my severity. Ye Saints immortal, who have witnessed our calamities, ye know if our complaints be
just

just, and will accelerate the doom of the oppressor.

“ * How long, then, presumptuous Prelate†, wilt thou continue to mock our patience, and exasperate the nation by appearing in this assembly? How long wilt thou continue to disgrace that seat of dignity? Whither wilt thou urge thy headstrong and precipitate audacity? Have neither the curses of the people, nor the clamours of the clergy, nor the indignation of the nobles, nor the conduct of the sovereign, nor the dread of that retribution which thou hast merited by thy crimes, nor the abhorrence pictured in every face that here beholds thee, the power to subdue the obstinacy of

* Imitated from Cicero, Orat. I. in Catilinam.
—“ *Quousque tandem abutere, &c.*

† Longchamp, the Grand Justiciary and Chancellor.

of thy pride, and deter thee from resuming thy inauspicious functions, on this awful and momentous occasion? O melancholy pattern of obdurate guilt! Quit, quit that place of honour which thou profanest; lay aside the sword of justice, which thou knowest not how to wield; descend from the wool-sack, and kneel at yonder bar; off with that robe of state, and wear the garment of a criminal. Eternal powers! * the passiveness, the timidity of the times! The Barons of England are acquainted with his iniquities; and yet he goes unpunished! Unpunished? nay, he sits in the Great Council; presides over its deliberations; peradventure is marking out

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* "O tempora, O mores! Senatus hæc intelligit, consul videt: hic tamen vivit. Vivit? immo vero etiam in senatum venit: fit publici consilii particeps; notat, et designat oculis ad eandem unumquemque nostrum."—ID.

the objects of his vengeance, and devoting them, in his heart, to destruction.

“ Forgive me, august Barons, if I am transported beyond the limits of parliamentary decorum, while exclaiming for equity in behalf of ourselves, and of the whole English nation. You will the more readily indulge me in this abundant indignation, when you recall to your remembrance, that the very first act by which he signalized his atrocity, and betrayed the genuine character of his outrageous administration, was his seizing on the person of the venerable Prelate of Durham, a Grand Justiciary and joint Guardian of the Realm, an ecclesiastic illustrious for his exemplary sanctity, a statesman precious for his wisdom and integrity, and who, had he been united with a colleague less audacious,

cious, would have watched over this kingdom with a heaven-directed mind, and restored us to his sovereign a contented and happy people. Was it his virtues, barbarian, that put your vices to the blush; or his knowledge that dismayed your ignorance; or the odour of his good name contrasted to your infamy, or his piety opposed to your ungodliness, or his probity compared with your corruption, or, in fine, the whole resplendent mass of his deserts eclipsing your foul demerits, and reducing you to insignificance, that prompted you to imprison that aged and hoary dignitary, in violation of all law, and as an outrage to your sovereign, to your country, and to your God?

" Could nothing obtain liberty for that great and good man, but an utter dereliction of those powers and posses-

fions wherewith King Richard had invested him on his departure for the Holy Land? Is it a thing astonishing, august and gallant Barons, that he who despised the mandatory epistle of the Sovereign* in behalf of his representative and delegate in authority, should dare to commit violence where the object was less exalted? No, generous Barons, the captivity of his colleague was a signal to all orders, of what they were to expect from his ambition and rapacity. It was held up as an example to overawe, and to strike terror into those of inferior dignity, and to teach the men of England to bow down without a murmur.

“ That

* Richard, hearing of these enormities, wrote to Longchamp, and appointed a Committee of the most powerful among the Barons, to controul his authority: but he paid no heed to the letter, and the Barons were afraid to act.

" That avarice was united to this thirst of sole dominion, is evinced, illustrious Barons, by his wresting from the captive regent the wealthy earldom of Northumberland, which Richard, his royal master, had conferred on him for life, in return for ample services received from that good prelate, when the hero was preparing for his expedition against the Infidels. Thus, high-descended Barons, was the ancient and princely patrimony of the Percies usurped by an alien*, who owes his original to the very dregs of the commonalty.

" By these outrages, august Barons, hath this vain and haughty churchman been enabled to maintain that more than regal pomp, and that incredible luxury, which compose the second chapter in the history of his enormities. With

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* He was a Norman by birth.

the sums which he amassed by these violent and lawless means, did he enlist and support fifteen hundred foreign troopers, a very army, collected from amongst the outlaws and banditti of every nation, who attended him in all his progresses, serving at once as instruments of his arrogance and of his despotism. To this every Baron who hears me can bear witness. Have we not beheld him, in the midst of this crew of malefactors (himself a more offenceful malefactor than any of them), vain-gloriously parading from shire to shire, inflicting his unappeasable revenge upon his enemies, and glutting his retainers with the spoil? It was not to dispense justice, but to sanction all injustice, by his own iniquitous example; it was not to unlock and interpret the law, but to tread down all law, and affront all jurisprudence, that he hawked about the en-

signs

signs of judicature through the realm, an itinerant scourge, a periodical pestilence. Instead of the gravity of a Justiciary, the deportment of a Bacchanal, instead of the sanctity of a Prelate, the indevotion of a libertine was, alas! but too visible to the thunder-struck community.

“ The march of this grand voluptuary, this high-priest of sensuality, was as a malignant blast that withered our prosperity, and spread fear, and famine, and despair, throughout the nation. When he halted at any monastery for refreshment and repose, it is a fact deplorably well known (for it was frequently, very frequently experienced), that himself and his fifteen hundred malefactors have consumed, in the space of a single night, the full revenue of many years! in this, illustrious Barons, laying

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waste even holy church, which it was his duty both spiritually and temporally to defend, and waging war with Heaven itself.

“ And here, Barons, it is not without affliction and shame (shame for the foul blot upon the Peerage), that I mention, that in the retinue, in the banditti, of this unhallowed and insatiable ecclesiastic, many knights, many — nobles, were ambitious of being enrolled; esteeming it their pride, or, peradventure, their profit, to embellish with their presence the vile train of the Justiciary! I blush, so help me Heaven, for this Assembly, while I rouse to its recollection the ignominy of some amongst us. O profligate degeneracy! Where was the pride of station, where the renown of ancestry, where the unsullied stateliness, the grandeur of heart, the high glory, and

and distinction, and characteristic of nobility? What! was there not at least *one* order in the kingdom, *one* generous confederacy, unanimous in its contempt or detestation of the Justiciary?

“ But let us hasten from this ungrateful and humiliating article, to other monuments of the insolence and iniquity of this governor, whose domination had now reached its zenith, and who, by virtue of his legatine commission, accounted himself secure from any secular retribution. I believe, illustrious **Ba-**rons, you have imprinted on your hearts the sad remembrance of that day, when the Lord Archbishop of York, that high-born Prelate of the royal house of Plantagenet, the offspring of Henry, our late triumphant sovereign, and brother to the fearless hero who now fills the English throne, was hurried to a common

mon prison, for his patriotism in attempting to set limits to the ambition and all-devouring tyranny of the Supreme Administrator.

“By this time, however, (blessed be the Saints and Apostles in Paradise!) the forbearance of the nation was exhausted. Dejection was succeeded by rage. This second invasion of ecclesiastical immunity, this reiterated impiety, and scorn of earth and heaven, were more than, either as Englishmen, or as Christians, we could brook; and an exasperated people cried aloud for instant vengeance on the profane and tyrannical aggressor. What followed, august Barons? Prince John, the illustrious brother of his Highness, feeling for the insult offered to holy Church, feeling for the miseries of the State, feeling for the wounded dignity of the house of Plantagenet, for his own honour,

nour, as a prince of the blood royal, and as a near kinsman of the injured Archbishop, convenes the Barons and Prelates of the kingdom at the town of Reading, and summons the proud Justiciary to answer for his atrocity. Did the malefactor obey? did he appear? did he acknowledge his many crimes and enormities to that Assembly, and deprecate with humility the resentment of the Legislature? No, Barons, no; nor is it matter of much astonishment, that he who had twice contemned the mandates of his Royal Master, which enjoined him to cease from his unwarrantable proceedings, and admit of certain counsellors and co-adjutors in the government, it is not, I say, astonishing, that such a man should pay no heed to the citation of the Parliament, over which he had so repeatedly and so arrogantly domineered.

“ No

"No, insolent and injurious Justiciary, your pride, or rather your apprehensions, would not suffer you to attend the Great Council assembled at Reading; you were, doubtless, sensible that your own overbearing, immoderate, insatiable course of despotism had inflamed the English nation with too furious an animosity against your measures and your person, to leave you any hope of mercy, or of moderation, from your prosecutors. What path, then, did you pursue? what tokens of magnanimity and heroism did you display, in this so perilous conjuncture, in this tempestuous scene of universal patriotism, when your adversaries were innumerable, your friends few and timorous, your very guards, your banditti, dismayed, and ready to abandon you to the vengeance of the community? You fled to the Tower of London: there you did not tarry long.

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There was something ominous, you thought, in the very aspect of that fortress : it occurred to you, that you had committed yourself to prison, and unwittingly spared your prosecutors the trouble of apprehending you.

“ Alarmed with these dismal ideas, and picturing, in your easeless and pusillanimous fancy, that you already beheld the scaffold laid out for you in the court-yard; and the block, and the black baize, and your coffin, and your executioner ; while imaginary sheriffs haunted your hall and anti-chamber, and visionary axes hovered round you in the air ; you adopted the resolution of stealing out of the realm (the wisest and safest action you had ever yet committed), and of sheltering your iniquity in some foreign land, under the puissance of your legatine authority. In fine, you abdicated
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the supremacy which you had but too long enjoyed, and this in the ripe vigour and plenitude of your despotism.

“ You deserted the Tower then. Recollect, illustrious Barons, I beseech ye, the ever-memorable retreat of the first Officer of the Crown, the Guardian of the Realm, the Grand Justiciary, the Legate of his Holiness the Pope. I will relate the adventure, Prelate, even for the advantage of *your* memory ; since, haply, in the precipitation of your exit, and in the tumult of hostile legions that were then besieging that citadel wherein you had immured yourself, you might not have sufficiently adverted to the circumstances by which you were effecting your escape.

“ On the third day, then, of the siege, you arrayed yourself in the apparel of a damsel,

damfel, a domestic of the Constable of the Tower, and, having covered your face with a wimple*, eluded in that disguise the vigilance of the besiegers. Befriended by fortune thus far, you proceeded to the nearest wharf, where you inquired for a wherry to convey you down the Thames, and made known to the watermen, who admired at your voice and deportment, ill according with your feminine attire, 'that you were a waiting-woman to the Countess of Kent, and in a huge great hurry to meet your Lady at Gravesend.' The watermen damned you for a swaggering bitch, and swore they could not row you so far. [Here some damfels tittering in the gallery, the Earl of Chester, and other grave Barons, looked up with great solemnity. This quieted the disturbance.] At length you pulled out your purse, and,

* A veil.

and, by the power of golden eloquence, prevailed with them to yield to your entreaties. You are handed down the ladder; (graceful creature!) you stride over the gunnel; you seat yourself in the boat: the oars are then dipped, and you depart from that metropolis where nothing but execration and calamity awaited you.

“ O memorable event! O unparalleled metamorphosis! The Grand Justiciary, the Guardian of the Realm, he who had so lately been the delegate of Royalty, who had arbitrarily disposed of the lives and fortunes of a whole people, now glided down the river, a fugitive in disguise, and indebted for his safety to a petticoat! *Sic transit gloria mundi*. We should ponder upon this, august Barons. The very petticoats of the Chancellor are a lesson of sound morality; for who
ever

ever expected (I am sure the Guardian of the Realm did not), that a person of his elevated station should be compelled thus abruptly to abdicate his pomp, and exchange his pontificals for a petticoat? It reminds me, august Barons, of certain shows which are said to have been exhibited in days of old*, where he who had performed the part of some hero, or great potentate, at length put off his costly robes, and assumed the habit of a clown in some inferior entertainment.

“ Well then, the Justiciary took leave of us in petticoats. By holy Paul, I would have given the revenue of half a year, to have been witness of your embarkation. Did your ladyship not weep, to be constrained to relinquish those

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* Dramatic representations were but little, if at all, known in England, so early as the 12th century.

scenes where you had enjoyed such adoration and such sway; where your smiles gave hope, your frowns despair, to the aspiring throng of suitors that incessantly surrounded you? You would not even lift up your wimple, lady, to take a farewell view of those ramparts and those palaces, within which you had so often shown your triumphs and your cruelty. Peradventure, prudent and coy, you were unwilling that the boatmen should be dazzled with those beauties of which they had already formed so favourable an idea.

“ I will not, heroic Barons, insist further on this adventure; save only, that when he had arrived at Gravesend, his petticoats, while he was handed out of the wherry, were arrested by an unlucky hook, and discovered his reverend legs

to the watermen, who were on the point of revealing their suspicions to the rabble, when a seasonable bribe of a weighty purse of angels* secured their silence and his own impunity. It is well known, august Barons, that he immediately took shipping at Gravesend, and, without meeting any sinister event, was conveyed to the neighbouring continent. And this leads me round to the last article of crimination, namely, that, though stripped of his high dignities by the Parliament, he nevertheless continued, under colour of his legatine authority, to molest the peace and welfare of the State, and to favour the ambitious projects of our enemies.

“I have now, heroic Barons, summed up the political sins of the Prelate who yet disgraces the woolfack. The facts

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which

* A gold coin, worth ten shillings.

which I have adduced, are too notorious to this nation, to require any documents or evidence to establish them; and, however uneasy certain Barons may be, with respect to the necessity of proof and argument, [here the Lord Fitz-Peter glanced his eye at the Baron Bardolph] I believe, illustrious Peers, it will be found, in the present circumstance, that authenticity stares us in the face, and that all the power of logic, with whole legions of witnesses, could not add either to the truth or the importance of what I have uttered.

“ Nevertheless, illustrious Barons, if it be the sense of this Assembly, that testimonies should be called for in affirmation of these charges, the deputies of the rifled monasteries, the multitudes aggrieved by his iniquitous decisions, the multitudes whose property hath been ravaged

ravaged by his banditti, many also who have suffered from him particular indignities, are in readiness at these doors to attest and corroborate the facts which have been related. In fine, august Barons, such of our own order as have experienced the dread effects of his rapacity and tyranny, are here present on the spot to support me with their testimony. Amongst these, I behold with pleasure the good Bishops of York and Durham, the outrages against whom form a principal figure in the catalogue of his offences.

“Descend, then, presumptuous Prelate, from that seat of dignity, descend; off with thy robe of state, and wear the garment of a criminal. There was, august Barons, there was of old time, in this kingdom, that degree of fervid

patriotism*, which incited a brave nobility to exercise more rigour on a flagitious and traitorous citizen, than against the most unwearied and destructive foreign enemy. And think not, obnoxious churchman, that either your legatine commission, or the artful impressions which you have had the ability to make upon the mind of your indulgent and misinformed Sovereign, are sufficient to reinstate you in those honours and that authority, from which you were expelled by the rage of an oppressed people. You shall not impose on the good-nature of your Prince, at the present joyful juncture, in derogation and despite of the resolves of the community. The voice of Parliament
must

* “ Fuit, fuit ista quondam in hac republicâ virtus, ut viri fortes acrioribus suppliciis civem perniciosum, quam acerbissimum hostem coercerent.”—*Cic. in Catal. Or. I.*

must be heard: we are competent to hurl you, a second time, from that high and puissant station which you have filled with such dishonour.

“ Descend, then, presumptuous Prelate, and repair to yonder bar: off with that robe of state, and wear the garment of a criminal. Your lamp of glory burns dim; for that which fed it (the richness of good works) is wasted to the last poor particle. On you then, illustrious Barons, do I call: rekindle in your breasts your former gallant spirit; assert the force and dignity of your own decrees, and the cause of an injured people, who look up for redress to you: so shall your fortunes flourish while the breath of life remains, and your deeds, in future centuries, be quoted by posterity, as precedents of whatever is magnanimous and praise-worthy.

“Thou too*, O blessed and immortal Saint, in whose hands are the keys of Heaven; to whom it is appointed to admit or to repulse, when the spirits of the departed solicit entrance at the gate; whose name we venerate at yonder hallowed shrine†; hear us from thy station where thou dwellest above the stars; inspire us with justice, with fortitude, with the love of our country; confound and abase its enemies; and, when they shall hereafter present themselves before thee, at the portals of Paradise, deal with them as their actions here in this world may have merited!

“To conclude, illustrious Barons, I accuse William Longchamp, Lord Bishop

* “Tum tu, Jupiter, qui iisdem, quibus hæc urbs, auspiciis a Romulo es constitutus, quem statorem hujus urbis,” &c.—*Id.*

† The Abbey of Westminster, dedicated to St. Peter.

shop of Ely, Chancellor and Grand Justiciary of this realm, of high crimes and misdemeanors against the Majesty of the State, against the person and government of his Highness, and against the peace and prosperity of the whole people of England. And accordingly, august Barons, I move you, that the charge first exhibited, to wit, the wanton imprisonment of Hugh Lord Bishop of Durham, and joint Justiciary, do form an article of impeachment against the said William Longchamp."

Here ended the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, to whom was handed, soon after he had resumed his seat, a tankard of mulled sack, with toast and nutmeg in it; that Baron being much exhausted.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

THE motion already mentioned was seconded by the Lord De Clifford: after whom rose the Grand Justiciary, who advanced from the woofsack, and addressed the Assembly as follows: " I have listened, noble Barons, with no slight degree of impatience, to the harangue of the intemperate and declamatory Lord [Here there was a loud cry of " Order" from every part of the Assembly] who hath brought forward this ill-grounded accusation. (I am in order; I apply no term to that extraordinary Baron, but what his conduct, on this and a former day, deserves.) This business is founded altogether in faction, and hath for its object nothing less than
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the molestation, nay ruin, of the government of our gracious and heroic Sovereign. It is a blot, a foul stigma, upon the fame of the English nation, and cannot fail of exciting both astonishment and odium in every foreign kingdom, that our benign and just Monarch, whose captivity we had so long deplored, was scarce welcomed to the palace of his progenitors, when disturbances were fomented in the Great Council of the realm, and propositions, replete with disloyalty and rebellion, held forth for the removal and oppression of his faithful Ministers.

“ Some sacrifice the hydra of faction would demand; and the Grand Justiciary hath been singled out for the victim. But I am not, noble Barons, to be shaken by the tempest which roars around me. *Integer vitæ, scelerisque purus,*

purus, I look down with contempt upon those who persecute me, and ask no protector, but Heaven that aids the just, and that royal and benignant master who is sensible of my rectitude.

“ With respect to the various articles of crimination urged against me, I must observe in the first place, that, if I imprisoned the Lord Bishop of Durham, it was by reason of his being a turbulent and disaffected Prelate; [Here there was an outcry of “ Oh! Oh!”] what I did was purely for the happiness of the realm, and for the safety of that government which, in conjunction with myself, he had been deputed by his Highness to administer. In fine, I found that I could do business better without him, and that affairs would glide onward in a more smooth and steady stream. It hath been likewise objected

jected to me, that I forced him to surrender up the earldom of Northumberland. I own the fact; and alledge, in its justification, that, perilously situated as the kingdom then was, (the Sovereign in remote countries, exposed to the chance of war; a faithless and ambitious enemy in a neighbouring nation, ever ready to take advantage of our troubles and imbecillity; and, at the same time, a faction of restless Barons here at home) I esteemed it my bounden duty to provide for the public weal, at the expence of an opulent individual. For the revenues of the earldom of Northumberland are ample, and, when applied to public services, could be productive of ample benefit. I went upon the great scale of expediency, and considered the prosperity (indeed I may say the salvation) of the kingdom which I was to govern, as paramount to all other

other obligations. If it was an outrage, it was a patriotic outrage. But so far was I from deeming it an act of violence or injustice, that I applauded myself for the measure, and expected (alas! how blindly!) the praise and gratitude of this thoughtless and thankless nation. Moreover, noble Barons, what business had the Prelate of Durham with that earldom? Was not his bishoprick, the largest and wealthiest in the land, sufficient to satisfy his ambition and prodigality? I trust, therefore, that no Baron will be led to look upon this article as a fair and proper ground of accusation against me.

“ But the clamours of my persecutors rest not here. My retinue hath excited their envy and their murmurs, murmurs which have been embittered even to calumny. I was followed, say they,
by

by an army, consisting of foreign outlaws, whensoever I made a progress through the kingdom. But is any Baron who hears me so unacquainted with sound policy, and with the customs established in every well-ordered State, as not to know that the absence of a Sovereign should be compensated by an additional degree of splendor in the person who represents him? The magnificence of a Vicegerent is a point of State necessity, not a matter of personal ostentation in him. The multitude must be dazzled; nay more, it must be awed; and nothing so much conduces to effect these wholesome ends, as that exterior blaze of dignity which tells at once, that the delegate of the Prince hath the power, as well as the post, of a supreme administrator.

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" As to the unknightly calumny, that the persons who composed my retinue were criminals and banditti; I rejoice, noble Barons, at this opportunity of declaring, as well on their behalf as my own, that those persons were of unfullied repute, that they were all honest gentlemen of Poitou and Gascony, some of whom attended me to this kingdom from affection, the rest from a desire of improving themselves in chivalry. It is monstrous, I vow to the heavens, that things in themselves innocent, should thus be made the pastime of malignity and defamation.

" The next unwarrantable charge against me is, that I and my *malefactors*, as the Baron hath injuriously and virulently styled them, were in the habit of devouring the revenues of the monasteries, under colour of our travelling expences,

expences, and thus of pillaging and impoverishing those religious foundations. I could not always answer for what my people might consume. We were a pretty numerous body. But the abbeyes and priories, by the very nature of their endowment, are, it is well known, under a perpetual obligation to receive all travellers, and afford refreshment to them. Why else the very liberal, and even exorbitant donations of the pious and charitable founders of those fraternities, which are themselves governed by the canons of abstemiousness and frugality? The dying donors never meant that those children of their godliness should wallow in sensuality, but that the vast possessions which they bequeathed to holy Church should be for the nourishment of religion, and for the maintenance of hospitality. To whom then, noble Barons, is this hospitality more

due, than to those who toil and sweat under the burden of state affairs, and to their faithful and meritorious retainers?

“ Moreover, what they expend upon their temporal superiors may be reckoned as a gift to God; for Kings are the Viceroys of Heaven; and I, as Grand Justiciary, was the deputy of a King. I marvel, as I hope for Paradise, to hear the monasteries complain. What if my people did make a little havoc in the refectory? Let the fathers heal the wound with self-denial: it befits them. Fasting is their trade, mortification their amusement. Thrift and sobriety will settle all again.

“ The Baron who hath moved for this Impeachment, lamented likewise, in a furious rhapsody, that even several of the Nobles

Nobles had deemed it honourable to be of my retinue. Well, Barons, I can see nothing melancholy in this. Many Peers were of my train, it is true, and they considered themselves very happily situated in being there: it was a school of politics and heroism. Many a hopeful Earl and raw Baron received there his first rudiments of courtesy and wisdom. Their parents and guardians contended with emulation for the liberty of placing them, as it were, beneath my auspices; presaging their future excellence from the profitable opportunity.

“ I come now to the next head of crimination. I am charged with having incarcerated the Archbishop of York, a Prelate of the blood royal. I did so, and I justify the deed; for he disloyally opposed the executive authority, thereby endangering the public weal, and afford-

ing an ill example to others high in rank, who were already but too prone to overturn the Constitution. At such a crisis I would have imprisoned any of you; I would have imprisoned Prince John himself; I would have imprisoned the Queen Dowager. When the welfare, the very being of a kingdom is at stake, we must pay no respect to persons. It behoves him who rules with but a delegated power to be more jealous of any encroachment thereon, than even him who is himself the prime fountain of authority. I held the sceptre only as a trust, and was to render an account of my stewardship.

“ I shall say nothing, noble Barons, of the daring and illegal Convention that was held at Reading, nor of the equally daring and illegal citation by which I was summoned thither to answer, as a criminal, for a firm, just, and salutary exertion

exertion of my power. But I was not to be bullied by a faction. What then? I took refuge in the Tower of London, from the malignity of my enemies, and endeavoured to prevent a lawless and ambitious rout from violating that power of which I was the depositary. I determined, as became a faithful and strenuous servant of the Crown, to struggle for the preservation of order and of the laws, which those confederated ruffians ["Order, order"] were about to trample on.

"As to the mode of my retreat, when I found that the torrent of sedition was too strong, it hath furnished the same Baron who preferred the several charges, with a copious theme for merriment, and for malicious exaggeration. I withdrew in female apparel. Was there any thing extraordinary in that?

In the moment of danger, any measure that conduces to security is laudable. Even granting that it were disgraceful, it must have been less so to me than to many others. I was no knight, no warrior: nay, as an ecclesiastic, I was partly in petticoats already. [Ha! ha! ha! ha!] But be these things as they may, there was nothing novel in the situation. Hercules wore petticoats at the command of a Queen of Lydia; Achilles, the grand Achilles, that demi-god of war, wore petticoats at the court of Lycomedes. Wherefore, then, should it be accounted such an ignominy in me?

“The last charge exhibited against me is, that after my departure I disturbed the peace of England, under pretext of my commission as the Legate of his Holiness. If to correct those abuses which were creeping into religion; if to admonish

admonish, from time to time, the disorderly ecclesiastics, and collect with a pious rigour the revenues of the holy Father; if to watch, with a jealous eye, all invasions from the laity on the privileges and prerogatives of the clerical profession; if, in fine, to oppose and punish all heretical adventurers, and keep Christianity from going astray; if this, Barons, and the foregoing, be to disturb the peace of kingdoms, I glory in my turbulence, and will sooner yield my life, than shrink back from the sacred duty. Spiritual affairs have that pre-eminence over temporal, that the mandate of a Legate supersedes all local laws: the haughtiest Peers amongst ye must submit to the meanest Friar, when deputed by the Apostolical Vicegerent of Christ, as his Ambassador and Plenipotentiary in things that are not of this world, a ghostly politician, employed to

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negociate your eternal peace hereafter. Who then shall question what I have done for holy Church? Beware, Barons, beware, how ye intermeddle in matters appertaining to the See of Rome: it is a rock upon which many a mighty man hath perished. The recent example of your deceased Monarch Henry* should, methinks, deter ye from embroiling yourselves with Heaven; for the Pope is the Apostle of Heaven, and I am his Lieutenant and Missionary."

Here ended the Lord Bishop of Ely, who had no sooner reposed his weary frame upon the woolfack, than the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, and the high-born Earl Warrenne, both arose at the same instant, with intention to address the Assembly. At length the latter nobleman obtained

* Alluding to his quarrel with Becket.

obtained the preference, and delivered his opinion as follows :

“ I imagine, heroic Barons, that the motive of the Lord Fitz-Peter, in rising a second time to address this House, differed little from my own, which was a desire to express my astonishment and indignation at the extraordinary defence just fabricated by the Dignitary who occupies the woolfack ; a defence, heroic Barons, as replete with absurdity, as it was with arrogance. I would willingly trace it backwards, beginning with his last assertion, as the first step of the ladder by which I meant to reach the several stages of his contumacy.

“ Nevertheless, heroic Lords, I am persuaded, that such labour would be unnecessarily bestowed ; there being, I am bold to say, but few Barons in this House,

House, who are not, by this time, most satisfactorily convinced as well of the truth and stability of the charges, as of the vanity, futility, ridiculousness, and insolence, of what hath been advanced as a confutation of those charges. For my part, I do not understand Latin; but the Dignitary who spoke last uttered something in that language, towards the beginning of his speech, the meaning of which was, as I suppose, that he, the Justiciary, is a harmless sort of a person; for thus much I gather from the context. In my opinion, it only proves him a good scholar; and, in so doing, is of more mischief than advantage to his cause: for good scholars, I have been told, are, for the most part, good men; their erudition considerably influencing their character. Now, illustrious Barons, what a phaenomenon of turpitude must the heart of the Grand Justiciary unquestionably

questionably prove, when his learning, abundant as it is acknowledged to be, so far from having purified and ameliorated his morals, serves, alas! but as a varnish to make his profligacy shine, and bring forward its colours with more clearness and discrimination! His harangue hath been a continued irony against himself.

“ Having insulted us in Latin, he informed us in every chapter, in every paragraph of his defence, that he despised the High Court of Parliament, that he despised the kingdom, and, peradventure, he may despise the King; for it is no uncommon circumstance, heroic Lords, for those who have practised upon the benignity of others, to despise them in secret for that very benignity. When this Prelate imagined that he had sufficiently confounded us with magnificent descriptions

descriptions of the duties of Vicegerents, he bethought him of brow-beating us with religion and the Pope, and of affrighting us from the prosecution, by pretending to have business from above upon his hands. But, laymen as we are, illustrious Peers, I trust that we have light enough within our minds, to enable us to distinguish between piety and imposture; between a shepherd of the flock, and a wolf who would devour it; between a meek conductor, who, with his pastoral staff, desires to guide us softly on our way to heaven, and an overbearing officer, who brandishes his crozier, and would drub us into life everlasting.

“I will not consume your time, illustrious Barons, in making further comments on the defence of the Justiciary. The reasons which he hath assigned for the

the outrages that so hatefully distinguished his administration, are in themselves so divested of common sense, and even of plausibility, as to be unworthy of a serious answer from any Baron in this Assembly. In fine, heroic Lords, it is my firm intention to give my cordial vote for every article of the crimination."

Here ended the valorous and high-descended Earl. The Lord Bardolph held his peace. But the Lord Abbot of St. Alban's arose, and thus accosted the Great Council:

"The observations which have fallen from the intepid Baron who spoke last, have anticipated what I was about to offer, noble Lords, with respect to the speech of the reverend Dignitary on the woolfack. I have only, then, to remark,
that

that the scorn and ridicule with which the Grand Justiciary hath thought proper to treat religion, in the case of the monastic orders, are so far from adding weight to his attempt at justification (for it merits no better title than an attempt), that, on the contrary, it affords what, in conjunction with my brethren who preside over the monasteries, I have long and vehemently wished for; namely, a just ground for an application to his Holiness, on behalf of all our Clergy, both regular and secular, for the removal of the Prelate of Ely from his legatine jurisdiction.* By his ungovernable rapacity he hath given a wound to Christianity, which cannot, I much fear, admit

* “ C’est chose que l’on a remarquée, que
 “ l’Eglise est traitée avec moins de respect par
 “ les ecclésiastiques quand ils gouvernent, que par
 “ les séculiers.”—*Des Particularitez de la Vie et du*
Ministère du Cardinal de Richelieu, par M. de Mont-
chal, Archevêque de Toulouse.

mit of a speedy remedy. As to what regards the interests of the Court of Rome, if the Apostolic Father cannot send us a more devout and conscientious missionary than the Prelate who now presses the woolfack, I will venture to foretell (if I know any thing of the sentiments of our Clergy), that he is likely to receive but little temporal emolument in future from the kingdom of England."

The Abbot said, and fate; after whom the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury arose, and attracted the attention of the Barons by these expressions:

"I am not surpris'd, illustrious and valiant Peers, at the reception which the Impeachment seems to meet with in this Assembly; a measure at once just, and vigorous, and necessary. The enormities

mities which constitute the several charges, have not been committed in remote provinces of our empire, where the attainment of proofs would be expensive and laborious, liable to delay and to obstruction from those who were involved in the same iniquity, but within the bosom of this realm, within the notice of all, and the experience of very many ; for few there are, at least in this illustrious body, who have not been aggrieved by the atrocity of the criminal. Almost every man amongst us, heroic Barons, can exclaim, *Quæque ipse miserrima vidi!* Here then is no deficiency of evidence, no room for doubt, or for artful interpretation. We sit here, as it were one mighty jury of the nation, the more competent to the trial, since we have been witnesses to the facts.

“ Never-

“ Nevertheless, illustrious Barons, it appears to me advisable to expedite the attainment of the object we have in view, by choosing out a shorter avenue. If, therefore, the gallant and patriotic Baron who is the father of this impeachment, will consent to withdraw his motion, I shall, in lieu of it, propose to this Assembly, that an humble Address be presented to his Highness, reciting the several grounds of complaint, and signifying that it is the prayer of this House, and of the English Nation, that his Highness would be graciously pleased to dismiss William Longchamp, Lord Bishop of Ely, from his councils and presence, for ever. But if, intrepid Barons, the Prelate upon the woofsack should insist upon a formal trial, it will then remain for us to proceed with the Impeachment, in the manner intended by the gallant Baron already mentioned.”

So spake the Primate. His propofal was received with applaufe. The Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter consented to withdraw his motion; and the question with regard to the fubftitution being put, it was carried by a moft ample majority. An Addrefs was accordingly prepared, and a near day appointed for going up with it to his Highnefs. The Affembly then adjourned, to the fincere joy of all the ladies, who were heartily tired with liftening to fuch a quantity of *great fpeaking*. Moreover, they were exceedingly hungry.

C H A P. XXXIX.

ON the day appointed for going up with the Address, the Lord Primate (for the Chancellor being the culprit, was thereby incapacitated from officiating as Speaker), attended by such Barons as had voted for the prosecution, proceeded in great pomp to the Royal Palace of Westminster. The streets and lanes were beset with a prodigious multitude, who hailed with joyful uproar the brave patriots as they passed. King Richard received them in a manner the most benign, and, recollecting that it would prove highly inconvenient, at such a juncture (when a subsidy was requisite for his second war in Palestine), to thwart

the inclinations of his dutiful and loyal people, assured them, on his royal word, that he would banish from his presence the author of their late calamities.

No sooner were the tidings of this victory proclaimed, than the metropolis resounded with triumphant acclamations: the Ecclesiastics, to testify their gladness, caused the bells of all the churches and religious houses to be rung, in reiterated peals of merry harmony. In the evening, the whole city was illuminated; many hogheads of beer were unbunged, divers Barons knocked down, and otherwise maltreated, for being known to be well affected to the degraded Justiciary. In fine, the same rejoicings were observed throughout the kingdom. To complete the general joy, the Lord Geoffrey Fitz-Peter was, in a few days afterwards, created Grand Justiciary (which
was

was all he wanted), while the Prelate of Ely retired to his native Normandy.

I have been the more particular, courteous Reader, in recording the foregoing debate, inasmuch as the monkish annalists, and others entrusted with the high care of handing down to remote posterity the memory of ancient events, have expended their labour in the relation of fundry facts immaterial to us of these days, (such as plagues, insurrections, famines, and the like) but utterly omitting more important affairs; to wit, the parliamentary discussions of their times, and the changes in domestic policy which were consequent thereon. These, therefore, have I rescued from oblivion; esteeming it a thing injurious, not only to the intrepid Barons who were concerned in those events, but to us also of the present age, that such honourable and stu-

pendous exertions for the public weal should remain any longer unrecorded. So that this, benignant Reader, and other chronicles which I have written, may be looked upon as supplements to the history of this nation, and, as such, should be valued and applauded by the worthy.

From the same virtuous motive of supplying the deficiencies in our annals, I will conclude this chapter, and at the same time this chronicle, with the recital of a certain act which reflects no little glory on the reign of Richard *Cœur-de-lion*, but which, nevertheless, the historians of his day have passed over with their usual inattention.

The subsidies being granted, and a new Grand Justiciary declared, his Highness, ever anxious for the improvement of his people, made known his determination

termination of instituting a new order of knighthood; which, like that of the Templars, was not to be wholly military, but a compound institution, for the encouragement of genius, as the former was for the protection and promotion of religion. "The art of minstrelsey", said this judicious Monarch, "so important in these heroic ages, hath been as yet embellished by no public mark of honour, to reward and distinguish present excellence, and animate to future perfection. It is, therefore, our pleasure to create a new order, which shall be called the Order of Minstrelsey; the ensign of which shall be the figure of a harp in gold, appendent to a purple ribband.* Moreover, (said this great Prince) the num-

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ber

* It was doubtless in imitation of this plan, that the present King of Sweden, emulous of the heroic Richard, instituted the Order of Gustavus Vasa.

ber of these knights shall be limited to twenty; into which number, however, persons eminent for history or for eloquence, or for any useful science, shall be admissible. For though the title and insignia of the Order relate to minstrelsey, the distinction shall be extended to literary merit in general.

“And to the end,” continued King Richard, “that this knightly dignity may not be disgraced by undeserving minstrels; and to obviate, as far as it is possible, the mischief of partiality, which would be likely to ensue, were the disposal of this honour to reside in a single person; it is our royal will and pleasure, that the Barons, Prelates, and Abbots of the kingdom, in Parliament assembled, shall determine, by a majority, consisting of two thirds, what minstrels, or other persons famed for genius, or for learning,

learning, appear worthy of this dignity; after which they shall make their report to the Sovereign, who is thereupon to present the persons so elected with the ensigns of the Order. So careful was this magnanimous and useful Prince to guard against those evils which in future might arise from an undue distribution of these literary rewards; well knowing that, either from their own partiality, or from the misrepresentations and artifices of their courtiers, Kings are oftentimes betrayed to confer honours and dignities on such as have little merit, and to treat with neglect the most deserving.

It was furthermore appointed, that the Lord Abbot of Westminster, for the time being, should be Grand Master, and the Lord Bishop of London Chancellor of the Order; and that the installations
should

should be solemnized in the abbey-church of Westminster.

Such, Reader, was the famous plan devised and executed by Richard *Cœur-de-lion*, for the ornament and animation of genius in this kingdom. Pursuant to his command, the Parliament reported to him the names of twenty persons, whom, upon mature deliberation, they had deemed worthy of this honour. In this number, however, there were no more than three minstrels, the faithful Fitzherbert being one ; for, notwithstanding that rhymers then swarmed throughout the realm, the united wisdom of the Prelates and Abbots, by whose judgment the Barons were much swayed in these decisions, could answer but for three minstrels, within the limits of England, as possessing the true spirit and excellence of their art. The
remaining

remaining seventeen, who were reported to his Highness, consisted of persons, some of whom had distinguished themselves as able historians, some in the paths of science, and some in the composition of moralities.*

The returns being thus made, and the Knights-minstrels invested with the insignia of the Order, a grand installation was held in the abbey-church, at which all the Nobles of the kingdom were present, and very many ladies, who, forgetful of the miseries which they had so recently undergone at the debate in the great hall of Westminster, now crowded, with no less curiosity and spirit, to behold the pompous ceremony to be exhibited at the Abbey. On this perilous occasion, the Lord Abbot had the precaution

* Certain rude essays at dramatic representation.

caution to represent to his Highness, that a guard at the church portal would be utterly unnecessary; for inasmuch as the attack was to proceed from a female multitude, it would be only exposing the military to the disgrace of being run over. And indeed, as the Superior had foreseen, there was a marvellous uproar at the Abbey. In fine, the Knights-minstrels were completely invested with their dignity. A sumptuous banquet was afterwards served up in the great hall of Westminster, whither they all repaired in procession.

This most excellent institution continued, for near three centuries, to flourish, and give birth to the sublimest emulation. At length, during the civil commotions between the two great families of York and Lancaster, the Order of Minstrelsey fell into disrepute, and was finally suppressed

suppressed in the reign of Henry the Seventh. For, divers minstrels herding with one or other of the factions which rent the constitution, and banished peace from England, the parliamentary choice of minstrels to succeed to the vacant ribbands was no longer conducted with that equity and wisdom which it behoved the Peers and Prelates to maintain. Cabal and intrigue found admission into the Assembly; each party proposing and supporting those minstrels who had dedicated their talents to its service; and political attachment, not poetical ability, became the object of their consideration. The Yorkists, the Lancastrians, by turns prevailed, and the Order was repeatedly disgraced and wounded by the election of minstrels of the meanest capacity.

Such,

Such, Reader, was the state of things, when the decisive battle of Bosworth put a period to the civil wars, and elevated the family of Tudor to the throne. Then was it that King Henry the Seventh, by a laudable stroke of policy, extinguished the Order of Knights-minstrels, which, after having subsisted for three hundred years, had become, instead of an ornament, a very nuisance to society.

The next work of utility which King Richard had in view, was the sending out some ships to make discoveries in the North seas; to the end that his subjects might reap the advantage of that intelligence which he had received from the traveller near Hamburgh. The main object of the intended voyage was to effect, if possible, a passage to the Polar Island; and, after touching at Ippikikka,

pikikka, to survey the spot of ground which that traveller had described as so favourable to a junction of the Gargurmuck with the neighbouring river, which disembogues its waters into the gulf that separates Asia from the continent of America. But the execution of these glorious projects was frustrated by the death of that illustrious hero; and the task hath devolved upon the present times, of re-exploring and ascertaining what was known in the darker ages.

Thus, virtuous Reader, have I faithfully recorded the high exploits and unexampled adventures of Richard *the lion-hearted*. Haply, thou mayest derive some good instruction therefrom. *Vale.*

THE END.